



CLEARWATER DEFENDER

NEWS OF THE BIG WILD

A PUBLICATION OF
FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

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A Legislative Rider Has Eliminated The Appeals Process
Chuck Pezeshki Photo

How Did This Happen? **Guest Opinion Harry Jageman**

Back in the 1960's the Forest Service logging program was in its heyday. Local managers were assigned to get out the "cut", with little oversight. At that time, the Forest Service primarily dealt with special interests such as logging companies, ranchers, and miners. The general public had very little knowledge about what the Forest Service was doing, and usually found out about what was happening when they went to the national forest for other activities like hunting, fishing, hiking or camping. They were often dumbfounded to find that their favorite place was now a new clearcut and they asked, "How did this happen?"

Today many people still don't understand the process for new timber sales, or new road building projects on the national forest. They often don't realize that they can have some say in how and where these activities take place, due to a series of laws that were passed in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

Back in the 60's people were finding that they didn't necessarily like what was happening to their favorite spots in the national forest. Instead of a crystal-clear stream or a vibrant, lush forest, they instead found a muddy stream or a clear-cut. After seeing this pattern repeated across the national forests, many people got angry, and went to work on passing a series of laws that would fundamentally change how our national forests were being managed. The new laws placed much greater emphasis on public involvement and oversight. They allowed groups like the Friends of the Clearwater to challenge the decisions of local managers, and forced on-the-ground managers to justify their decisions. Management plans are now required for each national forest under the rules of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) 1976, allowing the public to voice its opinion on how each national forest was being managed.

The Forest Plans established areas where logging would be allowed, and where it would not. The plans established management standards for things like maintaining water quality and populations of native wildlife species. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 1969, assured that the public would have a say in specific

See Deal Making page 6

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Ravensong:

A Natural and Fabulous History of Ravens & Crows by Dr. Catherine Feher-Elston

I love this book! It is easy to read and covers the Corvid family in great detail, from myth to science to personal experiences with ravens and crows. Plus, it is illustrated with fabulous drawings by Lawrence Ormsby. *Ravensong* is the first in a series the author plans to write based on totemic animals. For anyone who has an interest in one of the most fascinating and intelligent birds in our everyday lives, this is the book for you.

While doing her research, Feher-Elston visited a number of native tribes, spoke with renowned scientists and researchers, and lived with and rehabilitated an injured crow. This book gives great insight into the power Raven had (and still has) in Native American culture, and helps us understand the family structure, resourcefulness, humor, and group loyalty these magnificent birds exhibit in their everyday lives.

The second book in the “Naturesong” series is *Wolfsong: A Natural and Fabulous History of Wolves*.

Reviewed by Sioux Westervelt.

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FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

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

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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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Reaching Out To You Brett Haverstick

Before we look ahead, we would like to thank everybody for an incredibly successful 2011 Annual Meeting & Gathering. With over one hundred people in attendance, a plethora of delicious food and drink, and Tom Peterson playing guitar in the background, it was one heck of a party! We sold just about everything in the Silent Auction, too. A sincere thanks to the local businesses and individuals that generously donated items. We'd also like to recognize Kelly Kingsland for her excellent work year in and year out to make the auction a popular favorite. FOC Board Member Laura Earles deserves a big thanks, too, for her help.

In December 2011 we participated in the Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse (<http://www.agmpalouse.org>). The mission of the Market is to give residents of the Palouse a meaningful alternative to holiday gift giving by supporting local-non-profits instead. In our case, FOC created a series of \$5 and \$10 "gifts" that allowed individuals to support one of our many campaigns: salmon & steelhead recovery, grey wolf litigation, protecting old growth forests & wildlife habitat, and keeping megaloads off US 12. We were able to raise over \$600 from the event, and want to thank Diane Daley Laursen and the rest of the staff and volunteers for allowing us to participate in this community event.

We have good news to report on our proposal to the Forest Service to make Fortynine Meadows a Research Natural Area (RNA). With support from the Regional Office and the Rocky Mountain Research Station, the Forest Service is moving closer to protecting this rare, high elevation, peatland ecosystem located near the headwaters of the Little N. Fork Clearwater River. The Idaho Panhandle National Forest is currently revising its Forest Plan, and may designate the 170-acre peatland a RNA during that process.

Along with the Fortynine Meadows proposal, we have been working with Dr. Fred Rabe to publish a booklet on the Meadow Creek/Upper North Fork Roadless Area (MUNFRA). We hope to have the project completed this spring. You can read more about this on page eight and nine.

After much planning, we have officially begun upgrading the FOC web site! We are excited to work with Lida Saskova (<http://www.buffalogirlsproductions.com/index.html>) to make the web site a better tool and resource for the public, and wildland community. The new site will include descriptions of irreplaceable roadless areas and designated Wildernesses in Clearwater Country, along with information on native species, a section devoted to the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA), an audio archive for our weekly Wild Clearwater Country radio program, and many colorful wildland pictures, and

GIS mapping.

To help us with this endeavor we have hired Keri Stark to be our Media Communications Intern, and Jeremy Jenkins to be one of our GIS technicians. Keri has a B.S. degree in Anthropology from the University of Idaho, and will be writing and editing much of the material for the roadless area section of the web site. Jeremy recently received a M.S. in Geography from the University of Idaho, and will be making attractive maps for our web site with Collette Gantenbein. Collette has been making maps for FOC during the past two years. See page nine.

We also have two interns helping us organize events this spring. Olie Lierman is a recent graduate of the UI, earning a B.S. in Recreation. Cassie Stokholm is currently pursuing a B.S. in Recreation. They both are excited to be part of the FOC team, and help promote wildland events throughout the Moscow community. Please look at the back of this newsletter to see what programs we have scheduled over the next few months. You can also check our event calendar on our web site.

In the meantime, hope it snows some more!



George Nickas Signing "The Plank" at the Annual Meeting
Roger Inghram File Photo

Believe It or Not
You Can "Like" Us On
Facebook
Breaking News
Community Events
Wild Clearwater Pictures

**Congressional Mischief,
Motorized Madness and Horizontal Forests**
Gary Macfarlane

Congress, with President Obama's signature, stuck on several riders to the 2012 spending bill. Riders are basically irrelevant legislation to spending bills that couldn't pass on their own merits, as they are controversial. Instead, a senator or representative attaches them to must-pass spending legislation. As such, they don't receive normal scrutiny. This is done to get around the fact that in most instances, a majority of the members of the Senate and House of Representative would not vote for these measures on their own.

One of these measures ended the Forest Service appeals process. In the future, citizens will be forced into court to challenge decisions. The only exceptions will be projects that are presently ongoing, like the Clearwater National Forest Travel Plan (which was just released, see below). This new policy will cost the government more money as well. For example, in 2011 FOC resolved five appeals with the Forest Service. The Forest Service changed their appeal decisions, and FOC decided it was not worth pursuing those issues in court. That sensible option will no longer be available in the very near future.

Another legislative rider ordered the Forest Service not to reduce domestic sheep grazing in bighorn habitat on the Nez Perce and Payette National Forests, and surrounding BLM managed public land. In 2010 the Forest Service announced that they were going to reduce grazing in some places on the Payette National Forest by 70%. Domestic sheep carry diseases that kill bighorn sheep. Domestic sheep are the main reasons bighorns are at around 1% of their historic numbers in the lower 48 states. Representative Simpson of Idaho, rated the 4th worst Representative in the US by the League of Conservation Voters, attached

this ridiculous rider.

The Clearwater National Forest just released its latest travel plan. It was even more disappointing than we had expected. Pot Mountain, Weitas Creek, and Fish and Hungry Creeks are turned over to motorized use. These roadless areas are prime candidates for wilderness designation, too. With allies, FOC will be appealing the travel plan.

Recently, the Forest Service crowed to the media about exceeding timber sale targets this year on the Clearwater National Forest. These targets are discretionary goals that are used to judge Forest Service line officers by higher officials in the agency. It would be real news if the Forest Service simply met the required standards in its forest plan—water quality, fish habitat, or wildlife standards—or met its obligations under the Wilderness Act to monitor and preserve wilderness character in designated wildernesses throughout the Clearwater region. But I am not holding my breath.

Speaking of timber sales, Friends of the Clearwater is following the environmental reviews for many proposed timber sales. These go by the name of Slate Creek, Lower Orogrande, Clear Creek, Iron Mountain, Crooked River, Saddle Camp, and Middle Bugs. We could end up challenging some, or all of these sales in court, if the environmental analyses show that water quality, wildlife habitat, and other intrinsic values could be harmed.

Finally, FOC has been working with Wilderness Watch on keeping wilderness wild. The Forest Service approved helicopter use in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness for the continued operation of small dams in the area, despite the fact that the Secretary of Agriculture promised in 1964 that these small dams would be maintained by non-motorized means. The Forest Service also has a proposal to use helicopters to capture bighorn sheep in the Gospel Hump and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses.



Sky's The Limit When It Comes to the Pot Mountain Roadless Area

FOC File Photo

In Memoriam

Four remarkable people, all supporters of Friends of the Clearwater, have passed recently. Their absence leaves a massive void in our community. Our condolences go out to their families and friends.

Defenders of Wildlife File Photo



On New Year’s Eve the conservation community lost a champion of wildness when **David Gaillard**, 44, died in an avalanche while cross-country skiing in the Absaroka Mountains just outside of Yellowstone National Park. David spent the last five years working with Defenders of Wildlife, where his focus was on protecting species like wolverines, lynx and fishers. He was the leading conservation voice for those species in the country. David was a long time member of FOC, and more importantly a friend. The presentations he gave in Moscow on forest carnivores were wonderful and popular events. His wild spirit, kindness, brilliance and energy will be sorely missed.



Moscow-Pullman Daily News Photo

Nancy Taylor, 53, was a brilliant and talented individual. She was raised on a farm in Tremonton, Utah, received her master’s degree in fine art from the University of Idaho, worked for Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute, and was a founding member of the National Organics Standard Board, which provided the

foundation for the current U.S. Organic Standards in agriculture. She also served as an organic inspector in the Pacific Northwest, started her own business, and managed to stay involved in the family farm while living with her husband Mark Leskao, and their son, Riston, in Potlatch. Nancy loved the big wild of north central Idaho and enjoyed hiking, kayaking, and skiing. She always had a great smile on her face, one of exuberance.

Bill Worf, 85, was a co-founder of Wilderness Watch (1989), long-time board member, and president emeritus. A long-time Forest Service employee, Bill was instrumental in writing the policy and regulations for the implementation of the Wilderness Act 1964 that directed--as both Congress and the Act’s author, Howard Zahniser, had intended--that wildness was the key value of Wilderness. He went on to be the head the agency’s Wilderness program in Washington D.C., before relocating to the Forest Service Regional Office in Missoula, Montana, and then retiring in 1981. He was a mentor to many. He taught us that wilderness is a place where nature rolls the metaphorical dice.



Wilderness Watch File Photo

If it weren’t for Bill, the National Wilderness Preservation System would be an empty shell. Bill spent his retirement years in the gallant and difficult effort to convince the federal agencies to actually follow the Wilderness Act and let wilderness be wild. His wisdom is irreplaceable.



Dr. William Kenneth “Ken” Medlin, 87, of Moscow, ID was an asset to the global community, a real renaissance man. A graduate of Berkeley and the University of

Switzerland, he was fluent in French, Russian, and Spanish. He was a professor at the University of Michigan and a leading authority on education in Russia. He was also an expert on national park policy and authored an incisive policy critique of the Park Service in Lassen Volcano National Park. He helped FOC do policy analysis of the ill-advised idea, still extent, to take all or parts of the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests and turn



Moscow-Pullman Daily News Photo

them over to local special interests. He wanted to keep the national forests as birthright for all Americans. Ken lived a full life of service to others.

Deal Making cont. from page 1

projects (like an individual timber sale), and established the environmental assessment process that assures both public involvement and oversight. Laws like the Endangered Species Act (1973), Clean Water Act (1972), and the Clean Air Act (1970) assured that these resources would be given due consideration in the planning process.

Unfortunately, most resource developers (loggers, ranchers, miners, etc.) and some (not all) local managers didn't like the new rules. They felt the new rules were too cumbersome, and didn't give them the management "flexibility" they needed to properly "manage" the national forest. They didn't like being challenged by the public, and they didn't particularly like being told how to do things by the courts. They alleged that the new rules had caused "gridlock", and that something had to be done to get more resource development projects underway on the national forests. These interests have worked "tirelessly" since the implementation of these laws to get them changed.

At first the development interests tried to attack the laws directly by trying to get them repealed. Fortunately, this strategy didn't work very well, and most direct challenges were not successful, both legislatively and judicially. As time passed, the development interests tried strategy after strategy to overturn the laws, but nothing seemed to work. However, there is a recent development that is now sweeping the country, and in my opinion poses the greatest threat to our national forests since the 1960's. This threat basically consists of a three prong strategy: "backroom selective collaboration," "environmental legislative riders," and "cooperative management agreements."

Under the "backroom selective collaboration" strategy, a handful of politically connected individuals are selected to form a collaborative group to advise the Forest Service. That group then offers suggestions to the Forest Service, who work dutifully to ensure the projects happen. Critical to this process is the careful selection of the supposedly "diverse" group. As is happening in our local Clearwater Basin Collaborative, most group representatives are generally "well connected" individuals with ties to resource extraction industries such as timber, grazing, and mining. However, to legitimize the process, there is a need to add some "environmental types" to the equation. Rarely are "strong" representatives from groups like the Friends of the Clearwater included in the process, and members of the general public have slim to no chance of being included either.

Basically the process has been rigged to put the fox in charge of the hen house, and supplant management responsibility from the Forest Service. With most members of the collaboration group being strong resource development types, the few environmental types who find them-



It's About Getting the Cut-Out FOC File Photo

selves in the collaborative have little chance of influencing the outcome. First of all, they are usually outnumbered something like three to one. Second, the environmental representatives are usually very carefully selected when they are offered a seat at the table. Most individuals work for large environmental groups that have been publicly supportive of the collaborative process. Unlike organizations like the Friends of the Clearwater, these groups rarely participate in the NEPA process, and when they do, they almost never appeal projects or take agencies to task via lawsuits.

The collaborative process is really a smokescreen for backroom deals, and putting special interests back in charge of our national forests. However, these groups still have a problem getting around existing laws. To do this they have adopted the "environmental legislative rider" prong into their strategy. As we recently saw in Montana with the Tester logging bill, they are trying to get around laws by having "management friendly" representatives place their projects in riders attached to must pass legislation. Fortunately, the Tester "2011 budget rider" failed due to strong opposition in Montana, but another rider was successfully added to the 2012 budget bill that eliminated the Forest Service appeal process in favor of a pre-decisional comment process.

That pre-decisional comment process is also a part of the Revised Planning Rule that the Forest Service is trying to pass. The Revised Planning Rule would eliminate many of the strong protections that are now included in the Forest Plans, and give local managers much greater discretion in plan implementation. It would also institutionalize the "backroom selective collaborative" process by incorporating this into the established "rules" for Forest Service Planning. This is a very bad development that will greatly weaken public oversight of management actions on our national forests, and instead put the collaborators in charge. The recently passed rider and the Revised Planning Rule leave little option for environmental groups, and the general public to challenge Forest Service projects except by going to court. The Tester loss will slow down the collaborators, but you can count on future riders too; expect one from the Clearwater Basin Collaborative in the not too distant future.

The third prong of the strategy is being played out in the form of “aid to rural counties.” So far this prong has been the least successful of the developers triple pronged strategy. However, if it is successful, it will pretty much spell the end for the national forests as we know them. Currently being sponsored by three Oregon representatives (DeFazio, Schrader and Walden), this proposal is pretty much the collaborative process on steroids. Under this proposal, large acreages of the national forest would be given to a “collaborative board” for long-term management. Activities on those lands would then be designed to maximize revenue for the counties, and be exempt from most environmental laws.

Please ask yourself why we should abandon a system of laws and regulations that has protected our National Forests for over forty years for a new system that is based on “backroom deals” and “crony management” by a small group of politically connected individuals. We need to understand that we can’t be timid in our response to this assault on the National Forests if we want to keep them for our grandchildren and not be wondering “how this happened” ten years from now. Like the 60’s, now is a time for action. Please think about writing a letter to the newspaper or your congressman, or taking other actions like supporting groups like the Friends of the Clearwater, who have seen through this scam. Don’t make contributions to groups that are supporting this process. If we fail to stop this onslaught, we can count on the “Adios National Forests” becoming a reality very soon. *(Editor’s Note: Harry Jageman is a retired Forest Service wildlife biologist)*



**Adios National Forests:
Thoughts On Privatization, Partnerships,
Land Exchanges and the Culture of Corruption
Gary Macfarlane**

The Gulf oil spill, defense contracting deals, the current financial crisis, and numerous other scandals that have bridged generations lead to an inescapable conclusion: The regulatory agencies of government have been co-opted by industry--Jeffrey Kent.

Jeffrey Kent, a former federal prosecutor overseeing cases involving timber theft on the national forests, recently penned an op-ed article for the Eugene Register, titled: “A Culture of Corruption and Political Payoffs Harms the Land and Ourselves.”

Originally from Chicago, Kent “naturally assumed that government officials had been paid off to ignore theft and fraud on federal timber sales.” Instead, what he found was a culture where agency people were not receiving money; rather it was expected that laws against timber theft

wouldn’t really be enforced, in part, because of potential political intervention. In other words, this culture of corruption was more insidious, though lacking personal graft.

Kent noted, “For 100 years it was said that “Chicago ain’t ready for reform. I found the Forest Service comparably resistant.” He then warns, “As the forest wars heat up yet again in a flagging economy and in the midst of massive cuts in government services, recent proposals have included:

- Ceding large tracts of public lands to the timber industry.
- Suspending environmental laws on certain federal and state lands.
- Intensifying the timber harvest on federal and state lands.
- Allowing the collection of “biomass” on vast swaths of federal lands.”

Is this applicable to the national forests in the Clearwater Basin, specifically the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests (yep, that is the new name as the two forests, unfortunately, are combining)? It certainly is. The first two threats are part of a program written about in the last *Defender* newsletter. Specifically, the county commissioners from five Idaho Counties—Clearwater, Idaho, Shoshone, Boundary and Valley Counties—proposed a radical measure. They want to take over management of 200,000 acres of national forests in Idaho. Unfortunately, the Latah County Commission supports them.

The last two threats are both goals from the ill-advised (though perhaps well-meaning) Clearwater Basin Collaborative. Rather than changing the culture, or in Kent’s word, the “culture of corruption”, the agency has simply expanded (slightly) the “insiders” table. Some were naïve enough to take the bait.

Efforts like the Clearwater Basin Collaborative (CBC) can also be called a culture of confusion, if not obfuscation, for a couple of reasons. First, the Forest Service is ostensibly not part of the group, though the agency funds the group. The Forest Service did not publicly correct the error when a CBC co-chair called the agency a partner of the group (Lewiston Morning Tribune, April 2, 2011.) Second, the Forest Service does refer to this collaborative as partners. As Kent stated, “High-ranking Forest Service supervisors routinely referred to the timber industry as their ‘partner’ rather than as companies doing commercial business with the government. This terminology betrayed naiveté and carried a strong suggestion of a political rather than a regulatory choice of words.”

Are the partners in the CBC accorded special privileges not available to normal citizens? It seems that way as the group received funding from the Forest Service as well as staff support. Unlike other partners who may

Memories from MUNFRA Guest Opinion Fred Rabe

Of the sixteen roadless areas in the Clearwater National Forest, one of the least known about is Meadow Creek Upper North Fork (MUNFRA). The Montana portion of the roadless area is attached to a larger portion in Idaho in close proximity to the Hoodoo area south and east and Mallard Larkins to the west. The area is administered by the Clearwater, Lolo and Panhandle National Forests.

I visited MUNFRA five times during the summer/fall season of 2011. My brother Dick, son Brad and friend Cathy accompanied me on these trips. It was decided that driving north to I-90 then east to Superior, Montana was the most comfortable, less dusty route. From there it took about an hour or so to reach most sections of the roadless area. My favorite campground was the Cedars alongside the upper North Fork Clearwater River. The scenic, shady site provided a cutthroat dinner one night.

Cross country travel in MUNFRA is difficult in some regions since there are only a few low standard trails or none at all. An experience in patience and faith is to drive Rd 720 north from Cedars Campground to Chamberlain Meadows, Upper Meadow Creek and Five Lakes Butte trailhead. It took us about 6 hours to travel the 32 miles roundtrip, much of the road single lane.

Some lakes adjacent Mallard Larkins Roadless Area, drain into Meadow Creek. This ecological linkage allows animals and plants to migrate uninhibited across two roadless areas, thus increasing species interaction and genetic diversity. It also speaks well of establishing these two contiguous places as wilderness.

Meadow Creek, a tributary to the upper North Fork, is the most important spawning site for bull trout in the state. For several years, the Idaho Fish and Game Department has been studying bull trout inhabiting Meadow Creek and adjoining streams. The species has presently gained habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. It is an excellent indicator of water quality since it requires cold, clear water devoid of much fine sediment, all characteristics of the stream.

An exceptional hiking route is the State Line Trail straddling the Bitterroot Mountains that separates Idaho from Montana. The continuous ridgetop route is intersected by roads at three locations along its 32 mile

length in the Superior Ranger District. Dick and I hiked from Cascade Pass to the overlook of St. Joe Lake, North Fork of the Clearwater River and Clark Fork River Valley in Montana. The headwaters of these drainages occur in the vicinity of three mountains that exceed 7,000 feet. It seemed like you can see forever since the peaks are nearly similar in elevation. I lost track of the number of photos taken of cirque lakes, flowers and scenic vistas.

The next day Dick and I drove from Cascade Pass southeast to intersect the trail to St. Joe Lake, 5 miles distance.

I caught and returned a beautiful westslope cutthroat there. Legend has it that an unfortunate Indian was chased up the divide and swallowed by the lake for breaking with tradition of not drinking the water. Swallowing Lake was renamed St. Joseph by a Jesuit Priest, Father Peter DeSmet who established a mission nearby. The St. Joe River is classified as wild-scenic beginning at the lake outlet to Spruce Tree Campground (4 miles distance) and recreational from the campground to the confluence of the North Fork St. Joe River.

From the Cedars campground, Cathy and I hiked up the North Fork Clearwater River about 5 miles to where it merges with Meadow Creek.

The river flows roughly through the center of MUNFRA almost continually in view from Trail 373. A mix of vegetation and water features

provides a high degree of visual variety, consisting of waterfalls, cascades, rapids, pools, small islands and extensive meadows adjacent to the river. Numerous species of animals and birds occur between the grassy meadows and coniferous forests set back against the hillside. Cold spring water from the meadowland enhances fish spawning in the North Fork. Such wild, unspoiled places make Idaho special and they become priceless and even irreplaceable as cities expand and populations increase.

Steve Garman, a seasoned pilot with LIGHT-HAWK, flew Gary Macfarlane, Brett Haverstick and me over the area in September. However, smoke from fires nearby made it difficult to clearly see some sites. The flight, though, did provide a sense of place as to watersheds, mountains and lakes.

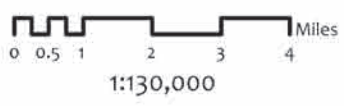
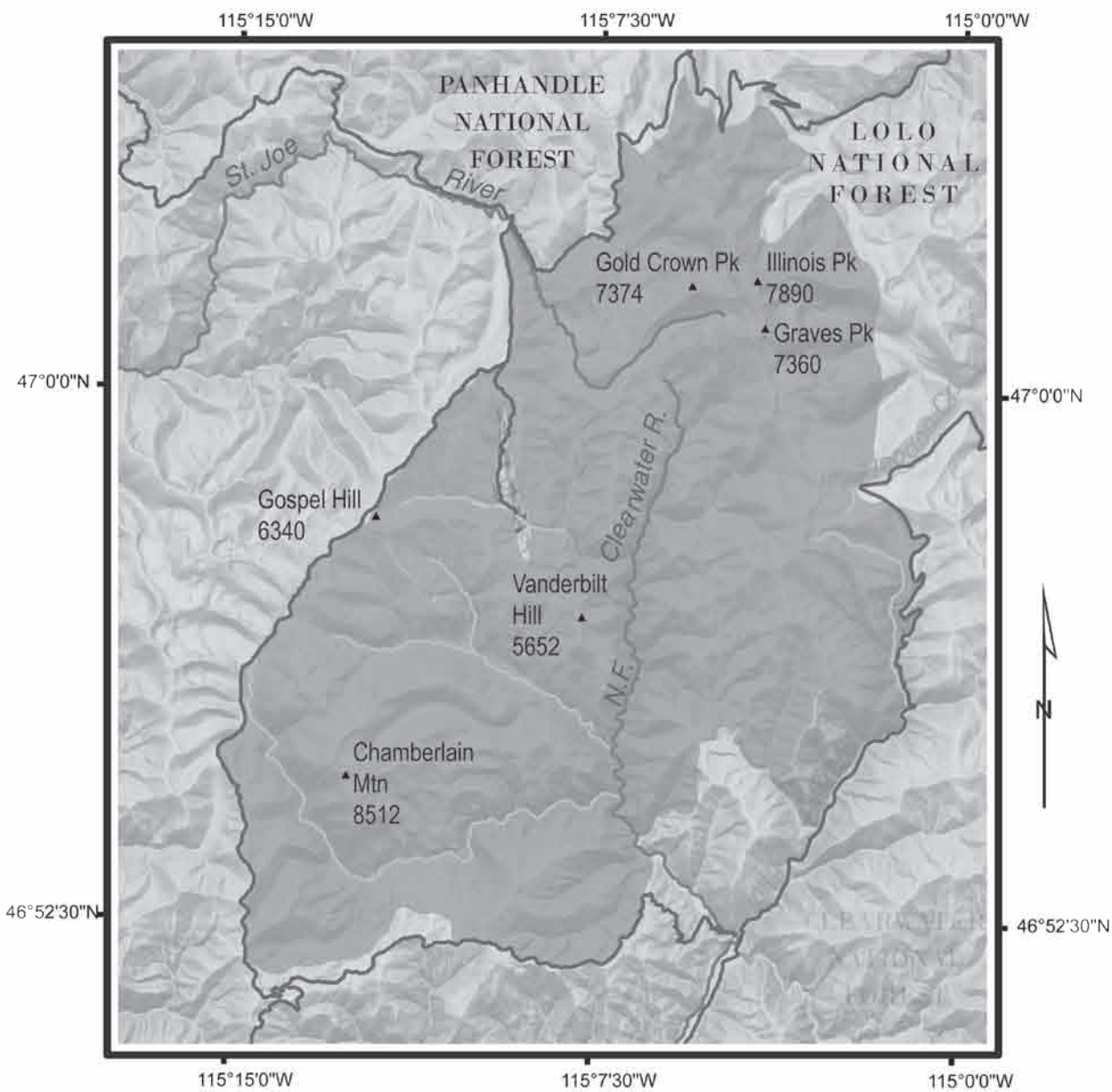
We will be having a potluck and MUNFRA slideshow in March at my house. Copies of this report will be provided at that time. The purpose of the gathering will be to learn more about MUNFRA, thereby generating more enthusiasm and support for this site to become wilderness.










**The Upper
N. Fork Clearwater**

**Fred Rabe
File Photo**

UPPER NORTH FORK



- | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------|--|
|  | Roadless area and proposed wilderness |  | Peak | Projection: Transverse Mercator Idaho NAD 1927 |
|  | National forest |  | River | Shaded relief derived from 10m DEM |
|  | Privately owned land |  | Stream or creek | Stream and road data acquired from the U.S. Forest Service |
| | |  | Forest Service road | Cartography by Collette Gantenbein |

**Healing Through Non-Violent Communication
with Nature and Humans Alike:
Natural Systems Thinking Process
Guest Opinion Tara Hoger**

The cries of the wolves being mercilessly slaughtered are impossible to ignore. My throat chokes, my eyes water, and I hold back tears, even as I begin to write. To speak something out loud is, for me, to bring it to the forefront, and the weight of it bears heavy witness.

Derrick Jensen, in his raw and profound book, *A Language Older Than Our Own*, explains: "Death is, and must be, deeply emotional. To intentionally cause death is to engender a form of intimacy, one that we're not used to thinking about. To kill without emotion and without respect, or to ignore the intimacy inherent in the act, is to rob it of its dignity, and to rob the life that you are ending of its significance. By robbing death and life of significance we reduce ourselves to the machines Descartes dreamed about. And we deny our own significance."

He is not saying that there is not a place for killing. He is saying there is a way in which it can be mutually and web-of-life beneficial. The killing of the wolves, in my opinion, does not fall under this category. Derrick Jensen, later in the book, expands upon the mutual relationship between predator and prey in the dance of death and in the moment of death. This is different than random killings and a 'predator- takes- all' version of survival. This is a contract governed by the web of life that acknowledges the need for balance in order for all to survive.

Shootings from helicopters are not the only way distance from, and denial of, the prey has been achieved in the wolf killings. I believe, along with Michael Cohen, the founder of Project Nature Connect, that our disconnection from

nature is the root of our problems: "As we interact increasingly with machines rather than living organisms and natural communities (as we did in our indigenous beginnings), our senses are further distorted and our choices become flawed in predictable ways. Personal and environmental destruction ensues, as cause and effect are obscured by technology, industrial production, and our dulled and atrophied senses become conditioned to (and addicted to) a highly controlled sensory environment, and feel increasingly uncomfortable with nature's constantly shifting, uncontrollable elements."(Cohen)

My current master's program in Applied Eco-Psychology with Project Nature Connect is giving me tools to help others (and myself) re-connect. The tools are simple and involve a set of 8 steps to consciously interact with nature called the Natural Systems Thinking Process (NSTP). The process begins with the asking of permission to be present with the particular environment or element in nature with which you are choosing to interact. The culminating steps allow for the conscious mind to connect with the web-of-life community in a way that honors the being of all creatures, and provides for a safe reconnection with the powers of nature. The simplicity of the exercises can undermine a person's sense of significance. However, fifty years of evidence and experience with this specific system shows they are effective in our current paradigm; the millennia humans spent in balance with nature prior to our need for such systems gives proof that this is how it was meant to be.

Many of us know this intimate relationship with nature well. We have had positive interactions that lead us to seek more. We acknowledge that our 'natural attractions', the underlying motivating mechanisms, according to the NSTP



Denning Season Is In March

Shasta's Spirit File Photo

model, draw us back in for more. And, as such, deeper bonds are created. Yet, though I have always felt a deep relationship with nature, I have wondered about ways of helping others to find the same. Brett Haverstick, FOC Education and Outreach Director, has spoken to me about the trips Friends of the Clearwater takes with folks into the protected areas of the Clearwater Forest to engender just this kind of connection. What we love, we will protect, and creating this bond in person is a valuable way to achieve this. So, what if we could do this for more people in general? Those doing the killings now may be less likely to seek change, but the children of those doing the killings can be taught a different way. And I still believe we can impact both.

I know it is incredibly difficult to find compassion for those killing, particularly when our hearts bleed with the animals dying. But I feel the most central component to both the ecopsychology coursework I've been doing, and my professional work as a cranio-sacral therapist, is the ability to create safe, respectful, and nurturing relationship with others. This is, in fact, what it means to live in balance with nature. And despite the tendency to want to view the hunters and government agencies involved in killing these wolves as evil entities, I believe we would all be better served to first try to understand the central factor of nature-disconnection, and the resulting fear these people are experiencing in order to then come from a place of honor and love which might actually provide a safe enough place for self-reflection, expansion, and potential change to occur. Unless we, as concerned humans and environmental activists, can enter into non-violent relationships with the people doing these killings, how will they ever know this option exists amongst humans, as well as within nature?

What I hear in the cries of wolves are cries for us all. There is no separation between any entity in this world and we must be able to embrace all aspects of this singular web within which we live in order to heal the whole.

(Editor's Note: Tara Hoger is a craniosacral therapist, birth & environmental activist, mother, writer, and musician from Moscow. <http://www.crowmedicine.net> and <http://umacenter.com>)

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Corruption cont. from Page 7

simply help the Forest Service clean a trail, the CBC makes recommendations for decisions before those projects go through analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As such, these “partners” are precisely as Kent notes, political in nature. And, being political, they have an inside track on the rest of the public because they have the opportunity to “influence” decisions even before an analysis of alternatives is done. That violates the spirit, if not the letter, of the National Environmental Policy Act.

In essence, those on the outside of the Collaborative, either by virtue of distance or principle, don't have the same voice as those in it. This special kind of access is precisely what Ken warns about when talking about the culture of corruption. It is also illegal.

An interesting irony is that Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Supervisor Rick Brazell recently told a group of people concerned about the upper Lochsa Land Exchange that somebody in San Diego has as much a voice as local people do in decisions on public lands. That is true. Apparently that doesn't apply to the Clearwater basin Collaborative, however. Somebody from San Diego couldn't, as a matter of practicality, participate in that group.

Finally, the land exchange is another good example of the insider game pervasive in the culture of corruption. Legal alternatives forwarded to the Forest Service from the public were not analyzed. However, an alternative that is illegal under current law—the one forwarded by the Idaho County Commissioners, which would not be fair to the American public—received special analysis in a new draft supplemental environmental impact statement. The Forest Service has seriously jeopardized the opportunity to obtain the upper Lochsa by giving political cover to hair-brained proposals like the one from Idaho County and by analyzing alternatives not in the public interest. Not surprisingly, one of the “partners” on the Clearwater Basin Collaborative are members of the Idaho County Commission.



Public Meeting in Riggins for Lochsa Land Exchange
Ray Payton Photo



Thank You For An Incredibly Fun and Successful 2011 Annual Meeting & Gathering
 Marissa McGee Photo

FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER CALENDAR OF EVENTS WINTER 2012

POTLUCK & HOUSE PARTY AT FRED RABE'S
 UPPER NORTH FORK ROADLESS AREA BOOKLET & POWER POINT PRESENTATION
Friday March 9th 6-8pm
 BRING A DISH OR BEVERAGE OF CHOICE, CALL FOC FOR DRIVING DIRECTIONS

FUTURE OF CLEARWATER WILDLANDS:
 IMMINENT THREATS & SOLUTIONS
 WITH AL ESPINOSA & HARRY JAGEMAN
Monday March 26th 7-9pm
 1912 CENTER, 412 EAST THIRD STREET
 FREE ADMISSION

EVENING WITH GEORGE WUERTHNER
 PREDATOR ECOLOGY:
 THE ECOLOGICAL NICHE OF WOLVES
Tuesday April 17th 7-9pm
 1912 CENTER, 412 EAST THIRD STREET
 FREE ADMISSION

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