



CLEARWATER DEFENDER

NEWS OF THE BIG WILD

A PUBLICATION OF
FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

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Congress still getting it wrong on forest policy
Guest Opinion, Rachel Fazio
John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute
Associate Director and Staff Attorney

Well, Congress finally passed the fiscal year 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act to fund the running of the U.S. Government on March 23, 2018. Appropriations are a specific type of legislative vehicle which Congress must pass annually in order to divvy up federal funds between the different government agencies and their programs. Appropriations are only supposed to fund existing programs; however, there are often substantive provisions (provisions that would create new laws or change existing laws) tacked on to must-pass (or the government will shut down) spending bills. These substantive provisions are called “riders,” and when they negatively affect the environment they are called “environmental riders.” The appropriations package which passed in March had close to two hundred “environmental riders” attached to it and unfortunately a few of them became law. Two that affect our National Forests are the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act and a “Wildfire Resilience,” a.k.a. “hazardous fuels reduction,” Categorical Exclusion (CE) for public lands logging projects up to 3,000 acres in size (or 4 times the size of New York’s Central Park).

The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, otherwise known as the WDFA, sets up a new bank account to specifically fund fire-suppression activities. On its face it does not sound like such a bad idea, and unfortunately the majority of Democrats in the House and the Senate felt the same way, but here is how it negatively affects our National Forests. First, naming the bill the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act perpetuates the mythology that fire is bad, and that when it burns in the forest it is a disaster. The science tells us that nothing could be further from the truth. Fire is natural, and essential to all forest ecosystems in the United States, and we actually have far less fire in these ecosystems than we had historically, including high-intensity fire. We used to have on average 20 million acres burn annually in the West (excluding Alaska); last year we had less than 10 million acres burn nationwide. Wildfires emit much less carbon than logging, they return nutrients to the soil, create heterogeneity across the landscape, help to naturally select the most resilient trees, and create amazing wildlife habitat. Fires are a benefit to our forests, not a disaster.



Christy Sherr Photo Credit

Bad forest riders should not have been attached to the appropriations package that passed this spring

Next because the WDFA perpetuates this myth, it opened the door to the passage of logging provisions detrimental to forests, under the guise of preventing the disaster known as wildfire - specifically, the newly created “hazardous fuels reduction” Categorical Exclusion for 3,000 acre logging projects, an apparent concession made by Democrats so that the WDFA would become law.

Before the categorical exclusion for 3000-acre projects, proposals on public lands were subjected to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which means that a process to assess environmental impacts ensued and the system to allow public participation, oversight and input began. Typically the Forest Service or BLM prepared an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement and in the process they were bound to: accept, review and respond to public comments on their proposal and analysis; respond to dissenting scientific opinion about their environmental impact conclusions; ensure the scientific accuracy/integrity of their analyses; evaluate the cumulative effects of their proposed project (i.e., review the effects of the logging that is being proposed in conjunction with the effects of past and future logging projects); and review and consider any appeal of, or objection to, their decision.

The new categorical exclusion exempts the agency from doing any of the above and excludes any logging projects which fall into Congress’s “Wildfire Resilience” category from complying with NEPA’s requirements. This new category created by Congress is available for any logging project which is within the wildland urban interface (typically 1 to 5 miles distance from private property boundaries – whether developed or not) or within certain classifications of forests (i.e. forests that have not burned for a certain length

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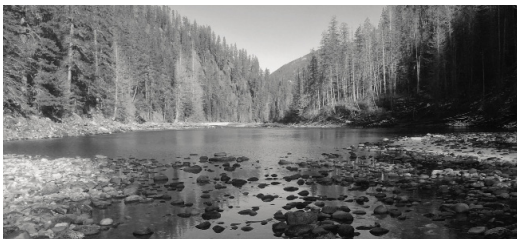
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FOC File Photo

Call for Artists - Photographers

FOC is producing two art exhibits to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. The *50 Years of Wild Rivers!* art exhibit will be installed this August in the Reflections Gallery at the University of Idaho. We will also install the exhibit in September at the 1912 Center in Moscow.

The exhibit will focus on the protections afforded to the Lochsa, Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater when the historic legislation was passed in 1968. Another point of emphasis will be eligible rivers and tributaries in the North Fork and South Fork Clearwater that have yet to receive permanent protection.

Please contact us if you have photography and/or original artwork that you would like included in the exhibit. We will be working on the exhibit throughout the summer. The first exhibit will be installed on August 20. You can reach us at 208-882-9755. Thanks!

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FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

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IS A PUBLICATION OF:

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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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Crews Create Wild River Watercolors

Ashley Lipscomb

Palouse Prairie Charter School students and chaperones gathered in a big, lopsided circle at McKay's Bend along the Clearwater River before breaking out into groups for a wild and scenic river day.

Fourth grade teacher Renee Hill called out, "Let's go around the circle and share one word about how you are feeling at this moment."

A few kids and parents echoed, "Excited!"

One 4th grader, feeling the after-effects of the drive over McGary Grade and Cherry Lane Bridge, woozily stated, "Sick."

It didn't take long for car sickness to give way to unbridled energy! The Palouse Prairie crew jumped into their expeditionary learning mode ready to absorb all they could about the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and find inspiration for a watercolor project along the riverbank.

Rebecca Urbanczyk, recreation specialist for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), talked to the kids about the legislation. She coaxed guesses from the students about how many miles were designated *Wild* and *Scenic* in the United States.

An optimistic 7th grader yelled out, "One million seven-hundred and thirty-seven thousand... and a half miles!"

"Well, we could only wish," Rebecca replied. "Approximately 12,000 miles are protected, and that's only 0.0025% of all rivers in the U.S."

David Sisson, cultural archeologist for the BLM, walked us through time and space. He held up a giant replica of a mastodon femur bone taller than the kids, passed around a smooth, heavy pestle and stone used for grinding roots, and pulled apart the pieces of an atlatl. We hypothesized about saber tooth tigers, skulls, and cultures.

Bobbi Kelly, retired art teacher and watercolorist, with the assistance of Judy Brown, established an artist base camp along the Clearwater River. After a few watercolor technique reminders, kids strategically placed their blankets along the riverbanks. They wet their paint palettes, and set to work creating river scenes for our future art exhibit.

Before readying ourselves to leave, we gathered in a gratitude circle and shared what we were thankful for.

"I'm grateful for my 4th grade partner," said one 7th grader. Others agreed that they were also thankful for new friendships spanning across different school grades.

"I'm grateful for Spring!" Indeed! It was a lovely, warm spring afternoon spent with many good souls.

As forward-looking adults, let's strive to protect more rivers for all future generations."

The student's work will culminate in an art exhibit running from August 23rd to September 6th at the University of Idaho Reflections Gallery and from September 10th to November 2nd at the 1912 Center in Moscow, Idaho. Come support budding creativity and beautiful rivers!

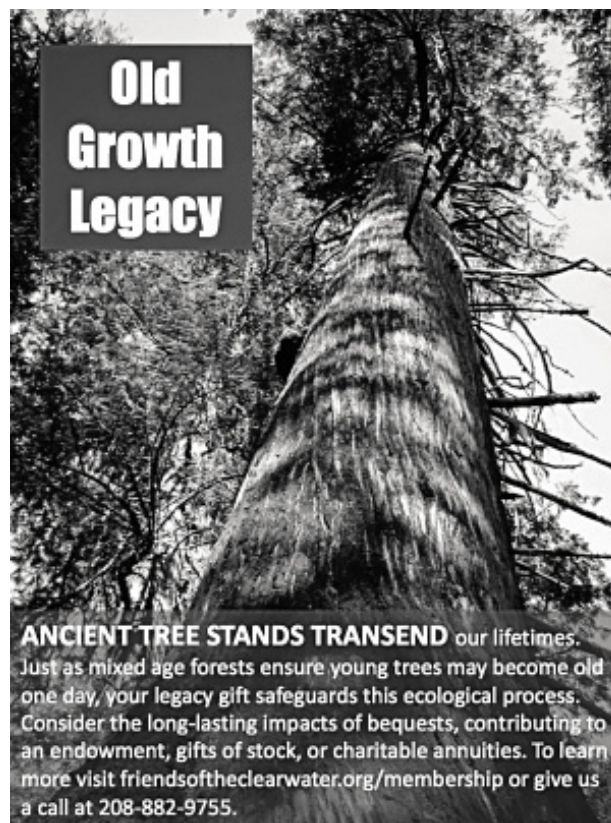
Special thanks to the Latah County Community Foundation for funding FOC's wild and scenic river programming in 2018!



Greg Pierce Photo Credit

Bobbi Kelly did a great job teaching the kids watercolors!

Old Growth Legacy



ANCIENT TREE STANDS TRANSEND our lifetimes. Just as mixed age forests ensure young trees may become old one day, your legacy gift safeguards this ecological process. Consider the long-lasting impacts of bequests, contributing to an endowment, gifts of stock, or charitable annuities. To learn more visit friendsoftheclearwater.org/membership or give us a call at 208-882-9755.

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of time). In other words, a very large percentage of National Forest and BLM lands. And while Wilderness areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and areas where Congress or the President have prohibited or restricted vegetation removal are off limits, there is no limitation on what type of logging may be done or how many 3,000 acre logging projects can be planned in a given area. As long as the logging proposed is a type of logging which is authorized under the particular forest management plan, it is allowed. Anything from removing 10-inch diameter trees to a 3,000 acre clearcut could be done under this CE, and five 3,000 acre projects could be implemented right next to each other.

There are of course some provisions put into place in an attempt to mitigate the harm which will flow from these projects; projects so large they could cover an entire watershed or several wildlife ranges. Unfortunately these provisions tend to be recommendations instead of requirements, and therefore are unenforceable. For example, agencies are supposed to prepare the projects through a collaborative process, but the Forest Service controls the process, including who is involved, and they are the final decision maker, not bound by consensus. Agencies are also supposed to consider the best available science, however they are not required to follow it. Finally, the Forest Service and BLM are encouraged to “maximize the retention of old growth and large trees,” but there is no definition of what an old growth or large tree is in the legislation, and there are so many caveats allowing them to cut and remove such trees that this provision has proved meaningless. In fact, at least one court refused to enjoin a project prepared under a similar CE, which had the same provision to “retain old growth and large trees,” even though the logging project focused on removal of old trees as large as 30” in diameter within occupied California spotted owl territories.

To date the Forest Service and BLM have shown their willingness to utilize such CEs to prepare and implement logging projects which will have a significant effect on the environment. Under this administration, that is not likely to change. In addition, the Republican-controlled Congress has just recommended, in their version of the 2018 Farm Bill, the creation of even more (9), and larger (6,000 acres, not 3,000), categorical exclusions for logging. We are going to have some big battles ahead to eliminate this so-called Wildfire Resilience CE passed in appropriations and to keep more logging CEs from being passed. The best way we can do this is by documenting what the agencies are doing and taking that documentation and our stories to Congress. Legislators need to understand the real-life consequences of their actions, because currently many of them either don’t know this is happening, or they mistakenly believe that they accomplished something which will be good for our forests.

I believe if we openly expose what is going on we can turn this travesty into momentum to protect our forests from logging. So keep up the fight!

Editor’s Note: FOC appreciates all the good work that Rachel and others do at the The John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute. Learn more at johnmuirproject.org

Below are photos taken 50 ft. apart of a National Forest in Oregon. Note the even-aged, sanitized forest following a thinning project. This is an example of the Industrial Forestry Paradigm. As Rachel noted, this is being done for greater “forest resilience.”



George Wuerthner Photo Credit



George Wuerthner Photo Credit

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about pressing issues visit
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Clearwater Country Report

The passing of Stewart Brandborg
Guest Opinion,
Marty Almquist and Larry Campbell, FOC Members

On April 14th, 2018 at age 93, Stewart “Brandy” Brandborg took a last look west to his beloved Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and faded into a lingering sunset as well-fed flocks of birds settled for the evening. As usual, he was surrounded by family, friends and Teddy “the yappy terror dog” as stories of a long adventurous life were shared.

Brandy is best remembered for his work with Howard Zahniser and the Wilderness Society building support for a national wilderness bill which finally passed Congress just months after Zahniser’s death, leaving Brandy to step into the role of executive director as negotiations wrapped up on the bill’s final language.

What those closest remember is Brandy’s ability to gather people into his circle, both personally and organizationally. The Brandborg family table hosted many over the years, including Bob Marshall back in his childhood days when Brandy’s father was Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor. With wife and counsel Anna Vee at his side, their home was generously open to a vast array of characters that always included animals - often more dogs than children and grandchildren at holiday gatherings, plus a parrot that hated women, and rescued raccoons!

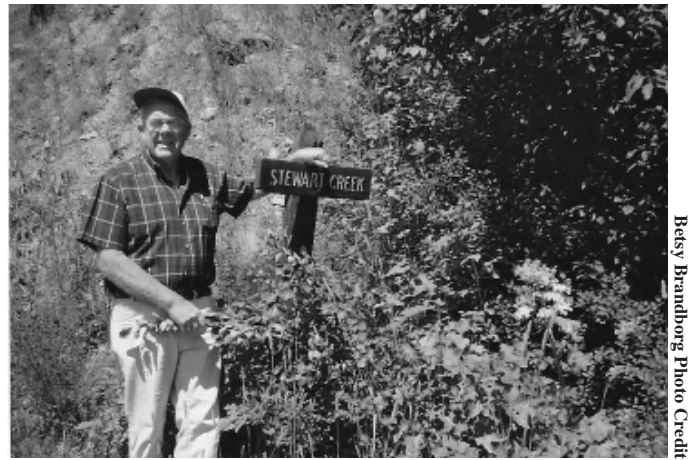
Brandy’s charisma was based on a genuine love of people, peppered with true western authenticity, eternal optimism and an infectious laugh. He could charm the rattle off a timber snake, always seeing the humanity in others even when his sixth sense of character spotted a phony, and always believing in the power of good people.

His life’s work and greatest gift was through inspiring countless individuals and grassroots organizations, beginning in the 1950’s with the National Wildlife Federation. His decades-long work with the Wilderness Society followed, building support for the designation of more than 70 wilderness areas across 31 states, and later working for the Carter Administration.

After retiring back to the Bitterroot Valley in Montana in 1986, Brandy continued that legacy by encouraging the formation of Friends of the Bitterroot to tackle forest issues and Bitterrooters for Planning to address community planning issues. You never left his house without an assignment to get involved!

Recognizing the importance of biological as well as human connections, these efforts were not restricted to the Bitterroot; there were many trips barreling over mountain passes in his big old Cadillac, cohorts in tow, to inspire similar grassroots efforts in nearby communities like Dillon, Montana or Challis, Idaho.

Brandy’s interests ranged widely, from oggling the first buttercups of spring or assessing winter ungulate



Betsey Brandborg Photo Credit

Brandy visiting the upper Selway country

browse, to resisting global corporate exploitation of land and people. He saw environmental protection and wholesome democratic process as connected and critically important.

Brandy never compromised his principles to win hollow victories. He did not buckle to purported ‘political reality’ but buckled down to make a better political reality. His emotional agility allowed him to look deeply into the abyss of man’s inhumanity yet still maintain a positive attitude and sense of humor.

To paraphrase his obituary, tributes to Brandy can be made by participating in the public process, fighting to protect Wilderness Study Areas or going into the wild. To quote the master orator, “These coming years...will test our power to the limit, our ability to communicate the need for preserving Wilderness, our depth of conviction and willingness to follow through on our commitments as citizens, and above all our basic faith in the American people, who are moving so fast and crowding so closely and needing Wilderness so much more today than ever before.” Now, what will YOU do?

Editor’s Note: Friends of the Clearwater is sad to see the passing of Brandy, a friend, leader, former member of our Advisory Board and so much more. We will never forget Brandy and his wife Anna Vee dancing together at our Annual Meeting & Gathering in 2007. That evening we also gave Brandy a lifetime achievement award for his long-time dedication to keeping the N. Rockies wild.



David Hall Photo Credit

Around the Clearwater

Gary Macfarlane

Wild Fish

The famed Clearwater large wild steelhead B-run, the largest size of the fish, are declining precipitously. According to an article by Dave Moskowitz in *Conservation Angler*, and information from retired Idaho Fish & Game fishery biologist Steve Pettit and local citizen extraordinaire and Advocates for the West Board President, Lin Laughy, the 2017-2018 wild steelhead B-run will consist of fewer than 400 fish in the entire Clearwater and its tributaries, except for the North Fork Clearwater, which is of course blocked by Dworshak Dam.

Prior to construction of the four Lower Snake River Dams, the runs annually numbered over 40,000. While it is clear that these dams are the main threat, other losses occur due to the percentage of wild fish that are caught while migrating up the Columbia. The percentage of wild fish caught is greater than hatchery fish caught because they are more aggressive feeders. Even if released, about 10% of wild fish will die from being caught. There are other threats including plans to greatly increase logging on the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests.

Fish and Hungry Creeks, tributaries to the Lochsa, contain the most important B-run steelhead in Idaho. Other important tributaries include Meadow Creek and Gedney Creeks on the Selway and Tenmile Creek on the South Fork. Cayuse Creek, on the North Fork Clearwater, used to contain the most important steelhead spawning stretch in the world. Dworshak destroyed a large percentage of the wild B-run steelhead. As Dave Moskowitz wrote, "It is past time to stop fishing for steelhead late in the season and in staging and spawning areas when the runs are well below historic and even recent abundance levels – until real changes are made in our harvest, hatchery, water withdrawal and hydropower practices in the Columbia and Snake Rivers."

Representative Raul Labrador recently joined with Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers in sponsoring legislation that would spell extinction for the runs of wild fish in the Columbia River system. HR 3144 passed the House of Representatives in April, though it faces an uncertain future in the Senate.

Anadromous and other wild fish are what define the Clearwater. They need clean/cold water and provide nutrients throughout the system. They historically fed, and may in the future, feed grizzlies, whose numbers in the Clearwater are minimal (NOTE: The last confirmed one was illegally killed by a black bear hunter in Kelly Creek in 2007, though there have been persistent reports before and since in the upper North Fork, Lochsa and Selway). Negative effects of the loss of wild fish in the Clearwater would be incalculable.

Wildlands Threatened by Wreckreation

One would have thought, as did I, that because of the relatively remote location of the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests, the industrial wreckreation juggernaut would have avoided our region for a longer period of time. There have been commercial outfitting interests for decades – some relatively benign, others with significant impact. Past motorized intrusion into the backcountry has not been on a large scale. However, the new communication media, along with an agency (Forest Service) that has bought into the corporate agenda (something that dates back a couple of decades), and an administration that is particularly friendly to the wreckreation industry (Zinke), the threats are mounting. Wild landscapes will be lost if the wild backcountry is seen only in terms of recreation.

To wit, the Forest Service has refused to comply with the court's order to prepare a new travel plan for the Clearwater National Forest after Friends of the Clearwater, the Sierra Club and Alliance for the Wild Rockies won an important court case back in 2015! That should have closed backcountry areas like Weitas and Cayuse Creeks (Weitas Creek Roadless Area), Fish and Hungry Creeks and probably Pot Mountain to motorized use on trails. Instead, the agency is dragging its feet with the intent that the new forest plan will not put constraints on motorized recreation. Additionally, the Nez Perce National Forest Travel Plan has been delayed, though promised to be released in May 2018. Since there is no current travel plan on the Nez Perce National Forest, almost any plan that complies with the current forest plan will be better than the status quo.

Further, the Forest Service seems intent on accommodating desires of motorized and mechanized recreationists (mountain bikes) to have at it in the backcountry in the upcoming forest plan revision. Unlike the concerns expressed by conservation anglers, who want to close fishing seasons to protect fish, many other recreationists, be they motorized or non-motorized, don't want any constraints. Sadly, the wreckreation agenda – the Outdoor Industry Alliance represents the non-motorized and the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable represents the motorized – is moving full steam ahead. As Scott Silver stated in a recent email:

"The problem is everyone and every organization that now preaches the message that outdoor recreation is an economic engine which must be allowed to conquer all... it doesn't matter what designation lands are protected by if the recreation juggernaut is allowed to roll on unimpeded. Wilderness in the end, could end up being nothing more than a brand."

Or as John Muir said long ago... "Nothing dollarable is safe, however guarded."

Up, Up and Away

The Forest Service currently has the fiscal year 2015 timber program posted on its website: so much for the new communication media keeping us up to date. Nonetheless, the US Mail works and we receive, or we are supposed to receive, the latest announcements from the Forest Service. The projected timber sales for the last half of 2018 amount to a sum *greater* than any year in the past 20 years for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests.

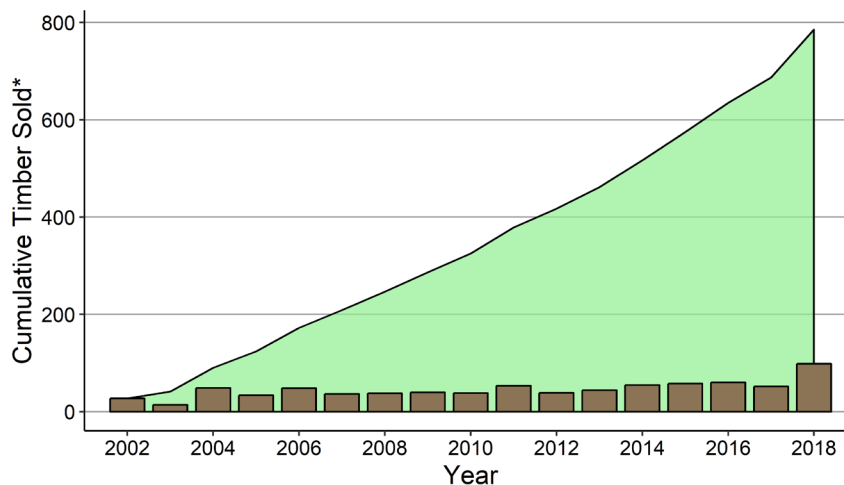
What is even more astonishing is the Forest Service has proposed a massive amount of logging for the future. In just four massive proposed timber sales where the public involvement has ended - Lolo Insects and Disease, Hungry Ridge, Little Boulder and End of the World - would log about 525 million board feet. The chart reflects what would happen if that were sold in one year. Bear in mind, there are several other timber sales, which are also undergoing public involvement.

is higher than it should be, the Forest Service would most likely be politically forced to do an exchange of unequal value, one that cheats US citizens, by giving land away that would be the amount of what IDL paid rather than the real appraised value.

The upper Lochsa should come back into public ownership, but it should be done through a purchase or other means that don't involve trading away other important National Forest lands. What this does show, however, is that Western Pacific Timber is willing to sell. The question is at what price?

This is merely a proposal from IDL. The Lochsa District Ranger had not heard about the exchange with IDL, when we asked recently, but couldn't say if other levels in the Forest Service had been contacted. We will continue to work on facilitating an outright purchase of the checker-board lands.

More and more timber being sold on the Nez Perce-Clearwater



* Units are in million board feet. Graph created by Julia Piaskowski.

Lochsa Land Exchange Redux

The Lochsa Land Exchange is back in the limelight. According to the *Lewiston Morning Tribune*, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is interested in buying the clearcut land owned by Western Pacific Timber in the upper Lochsa and then trading it to the Forest Service for important low elevation National Forest lands that have trees - lots of them. This is essentially the same old land exchange. There is also no guarantee IDL won't log and then trade those lands to someone else.

Even worse, is the prospect that IDL could be willing to pay an exorbitant price for the lands. IDL is flush with money from the sale of cabin sites around Priest and Payette Lakes - so much for the promise to retain state lands in state ownership. If the upper Lochsa lands purchase price

Countering the Threats

Unlike some National Forests in California or those located near urban centers, where the threats to public lands come mainly from recreation commodification, the Clearwater Basin has the dubious distinction of being threatened on all fronts. Ideas are welcome in our effort to keep the Clearwater wild. We are exploring some new avenues to that end, as well as some tried and true approaches. In the case of the latter, FOC hired an attorney, part-time for now, to help in coordinating our efforts on all of these fronts, including engaging with those who support keeping the Clearwater wild.

Introduction to (and by) FOC's newest staff addition Katie Bilodeau

Greetings, Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) members! I started working for FOC as the new, part-time staff attorney in early April. I am excited to bring my expertise to FOC.

Although Michigan's Upper Peninsula was my birthplace, I consider Cheyenne, Wyoming to be my hometown because I spent my childhood and graduated from high school in southeast Wyoming. I attended the University of Notre Dame (yes, the football school that seems to be adored or despised - and also home of the 2018 NCAA Women's Division I Basketball champions!) where I majored in Japanese. After graduation, I spent two years teaching English in Japan. Upon returning, I worked for a cultural nonprofit in Denver, Colorado, for a couple of years before seeking a graduate degree in natural resources - the University of Idaho is what put Moscow, Idaho, and eventually the Clearwater Basin, on the map in my life.

I came to Moscow to pursue graduate studies in 2006. During my coursework for a Master of Science in Water Resources, I took two classes, one that covered forest policy, and one that covered water law, both of which influenced my decision to get a law degree. After attaining my master's, I attended University of Idaho's College of Law and graduated in 2012 with two emphases, one in Natural Resource and Environmental Law, and one in Native American Law. I clerked for two judges in the couple of years following graduation. After clerking, I established my own law practice and have advised and represented several environmental nonprofits, including FOC. I am excited about this staff position because I can help Friends of the Clearwater with more than litigation. As a staff attorney, I can proactively help FOC with Freedom of Information Act requests and comments on forest projects and forest planning in addition to providing legal advice. All of these tasks further FOC's mission to defend the Clearwater Basin, whether it be with its Forest Watch program or, if unavoidable, with litigation.

Although I have not traversed the miles of this basin that FOC staff or many of you members have, I've seen enough to know that I want to keep venturing into Wild Clearwater Country and that these areas are worth protecting. I have car-camped at Wilderness Gateway Campground. I have hiked on Weitas Creek and fished on Skull Creek (where I learned how to clean a fish) in the North Fork of the Clearwater. I have backpacked into the Five Lakes Butte area on the North Fork of the Clearwater. I have floated stretches of the Lochsa, Clearwater, and Salmon Rivers. I have backpacked into the Gospel - Hump Wilderness - the rattlesnake-y side. (Yes, there is a rattlesnake-y side. It borders the Salm-

on River). This diverse region keeps managing to take my breath away, and I hope you join me in continuing to protect this amazing part of the country.



FOC File Photo

Wild Clearwater Country has approximately
1.5 million acres of unprotected roadless wildands

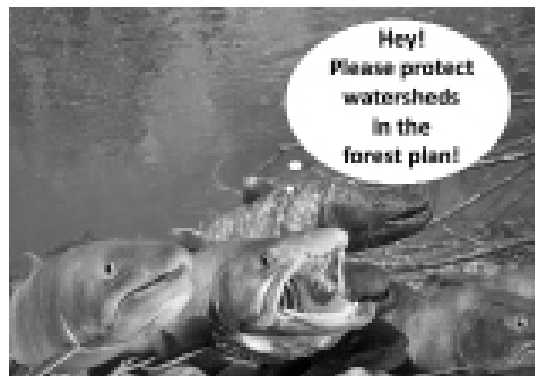
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Government Accountability Page (GAP)

Katie Bilodeau

Friends of the Clearwater wants to inform you about what we have requested from our government through public-record laws. We will keep you updated on the information received, and we will keep the responses on file in our office for you to access. If you want a particular document that was part of a public record request that you've read about here or on our website, let us know and we can email it to you! We will also update our website with pending public-records requests and the responses we receive.

Healthy Forest Restoration Act accounting of acres treated

The public has a right to know the acreage that the Forest Service has impacted with authorized "hazardous fuel" reduction activities under the Bush-era statute, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). Projects proposed under the HFRA can abridge environmental analysis, public comment, and review of proposals that would otherwise be required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Hazardous fuel reduction activities can include logging, whether it be "thinning" or "shelterwood" cuts. The report Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Landscape Restoration Accomplishments Fiscal Years (FY) 2001-2017 indicates that the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service have "accomplished" approximately 68 million acres of hazardous fuels reduction and landscape restoration on Wildland Urban Interface and non-Wildland Urban Interface public land between 2001 and 2017.

The report did not specify how much of that acreage has been a result of projects authorized under the HFRA, and Friends of the Clearwater wants an accounting of this number. Because the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service are both authorized to use the HFRA to propose and approve projects, Friends of the Clearwater had to make two different Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for this information. On April 23, 2018, we sent a FOIA request to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to provide us information about the acreage that the BLM has treated through projects authorized by the HFRA. The same day, we also sent a FOIA request to the Forest Service to provide us information about the acreage the Forest Service has treated through projects authorized by the HFRA. We have asked that each agency provide us the total number of acres that has been treated under the HFRA and a breakdown of this number by region and by project. We think this information will help educate the public as to how many acres and what types of projects are receiving this abridged environmental review.

Idaho Department of Lands contact with public and private entities about a revival of the Lochsa Land Exchange

On Saturday, April 14, 2018, the *Lewiston Morning Tribune* reported a possible revival of the Lochsa Land Exchange. The article noted that the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), a state agency, has reached out to several stakeholders to gauge interest in whether IDL should explore acquiring lands that the agency would then seek to exchange with the Forest Service for some of our National Forests. This news caught many, including Friends of the Clearwater, by surprise. So, under Idaho's public-record statute, we asked IDL to disclose to whom it has reached out about this idea and the contents of those communications, whether they be notes, emails, memos, or texts. IDL has disclosed these records. Visit the "Issues" tab on our website and then go to the Upper Lochsa Land Exchange.

Thank you for your support

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“Spirit of collaboration” is stifling public involvement

Brett Haverstick

This year kicked off with a bang, thanks to the Forest Service announcing right before the holidays that they are seeking public comment on the development of alternatives for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Revision Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The agency has become very adept at engaging the public in ways that are, indeed, inconvenient for the public.

FOC staff made a concerted effort the past four months to engage and educate the public about the complexities and importance of a Forest Plan. We appreciated everyone's attendance at both of our workshops in Moscow. Idaho Rivers United co-sponsored our workshops in Boise and McCall. The Kootenai Environmental Alliance and Coeur d'Alene Audubon Chapter were kind enough to host us in Coeur d'Alene for two other workshops.

One of the underlying take-aways from these events was that the public is largely ignorant of forest planning, and, yet, very concerned about the direction Supervisor Cheryl Probert is taking the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. People were aghast at the potential development of roadless areas on the forests and the paltry wilderness recommendations in the original scoping document. Members of the public also expressed disdain at the potential increase of motorized and mechanized recreation in the new forest plan. Workshop participants expressed disgust over the possible omission of measurable and enforceable standards for water quality, sensitive soils, old growth and fish and wildlife habitat in the new forest plan. You can't triple the cut unless you do away with accountability!

It is obvious to us that citizens are frustrated by the lack of public meetings and genuine public involvement by the Forest Service. Many people commented during our workshops that the agency should be the ones hosting meetings, not us! The Forest Service has not had a forest plan public meeting in Moscow in over three years, despite the long history of forest activism in the community (that is not a coincidence). Nor has there been a single forest plan public meeting in Lewiston or Coeur d'Alene, Idaho during that same time period. According to FOC Board Member Al Espinosa, the Forest Service held public meetings as far away as Spokane, WA. during the development of the 1987 Clearwater National Forest Plan.

Supervisor Probert did, however, make a very brief appearance at a March 2018 Latah County Commissioner meeting to provide an update on the Forest Revision. This occurred at 1:30 p.m. on a Monday, with limited attendance, as one might guess. It appears that Supervisor Probert stopped in Moscow that day enroute to a 2-day regional

public lands collaboration conference at the posh, lakeside Coeur d'Alene Resort. Forest Service employees, timber industry representatives and their attorneys, as well as university professors and researchers were in attendance. So was staff from Idaho Conservation League, The Wilderness Society, The Lands Council, The Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited.

It has never been more obvious that the Forest Service is more interested in disenfranchising the public through collaboration than it is in engaging the American people through genuine public involvement on issues paramount to our collective future.

50th Anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act

We were grateful to deliver an *IGNITE* presentation at Lewis-Clark State College in March at the Annual Idaho Environmental Education Conference. We were given five minutes to convey our message to the audience and we took advantage of it. This is like having a 50-word limit for a letter to the editor in a newspaper. Brevity wins the day!

Eric & Jan Jensen, along with FOC staff Ashley Lipscomb, delivered another successful fundraiser revolving around camaraderie, good wine and tasty hors d'oeuvres. The *2018 Wine & Wild Rivers* took place at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Moscow, which has a very accommodating kitchen and community space. We would like to extend a very big thank you to the Palouse Enological Society for lending wine glasses to us again, as well as the following wineries and businesses: The Moscow Wine Company, Villa Creek, Kaena, Nicora, Denner, Law Estates, Herman Story, Jack Creek, Kinero Cellars, Epoch and TH Estate Wines. And of course, a fundraiser would not be possible without everyone who attended and contributed financially!



IRU Photo Credit

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, happy birthday to you! The *50 Years of Wild Rivers!* panel discussion in April at the University of Idaho Law School was a lot of fun. Thank you to Professor Barbara Cosens for serving as the moderator, and the UI Law School - Environmental Law Society for being co-organizers. Other sponsors included Idaho Rivers United, Advocates for the West, Idaho River Adventures and the Forest Service. Stay tuned for more anniversary programming later this year.

One night alongside the Salmon A poem by FOC member Robin Magnuson

I saw wild movement against current, close by,
under full moon in fast water,
full-finned strength swimming in harmony with a
river rushing to sea, instinct running ocean to canyon
homing upstream to ancient gravel.

Awakened by what I saw, I heard the Salmon
flowing West to the dammed Snake and Columbia,
to the Pacific at the end of the rivers
and, here, sitting at the edge of the roar of the river,
in the spray of its power,
I could feel millenia of snow-melt washing over
rocks defined by moonlight.

But I saw no salmon here this night
except that one remembered from dream, that one survivor
of those many wild thousands who once ran a forgiving
gauntlet of bears and other subsistence fishers,
the water, fishers and fish sharing connection in spirit
and in ritual as fish sought birth-reds, to spawn there
and to die there exhausted, to rot there, and in the rot

to be one with the water that brought them home free.

Big Idaho river.

Tonight you run with all the power of your years,
but within the fifty year history of my memory
your wild runs and hidden reds have been reduced
to dreams by the uncaring avarice
of a men-tality construction extinction in its claim
to an irredeemable right to diminish what is wild
to deny what is free.

Now, wild salmon in your water are a rapidly
disappearing minority, now, most fish running here
are spawned in a hatchery, fin-clipped,
herded like branded cattle through the dams downstream,
and those that return seek not clean rock
in the home-pool of ancestors
but struggle instead to a catching weir, to a netting pond,

to be finger-stripped and condemned by man-handling
to die as they were born - in captivity.

Big Idaho river.

Who fifty years from tonight will have memory of the time
when the salmon ran free? Who then will sleep here
beside you to dream of the wildness of centuries?

Lost friend: the passing of Nels Peterson Jeanne McHale, FOC member



Jeanne McHale Photo Credit

The day after the recent Spring equinox, our beloved friend Nels Peterson left us for another plane. The following evening, a spectacular rose-gold sunset splashed across the Palouse hills and warmed our memories of Nels. We miss him in sad proportion to the generosity of his well-lived life. Nels had a spotlight of a smile that shone on everyone in his sphere. He stood up for peace and justice, he worked to end hunger, and he cared about the planet. His masterful drumming kept the beat for two bands, Henry C. and the Willards and the Moscow Volunteer Peace Band. His delicious bread was lovingly baked with flour from local wheat. Nels was gentle and kind, except perhaps on the hockey rink, where he was fierce and fast. His heart was full of love, but he hated war and hunger. Talking to him was like getting a conversational massage to the music of laughter; you just felt better afterward. When you got a flour-dusted hug from Nels, it was like being blessed with magic powder that made you want to be kinder and happier, more like Nels.

It will always be one of the greatest thrills of my life to have been able to play music with Nels. I will treasure memories of the times that he shared his talent to raise funds for the Friends of the Clearwater, as well as for Sojourner's Alliance, Backyard Harvest, Planned Parenthood, Wild Idaho Rising Tide, and many other non-profits. He will be remembered in his eponymous blues song for the planet, "Nels' Shuffle." His beats for peace will have eternal repercussions. And the roll-off for "The Saints Go Marching In" will continue to elicit a conditioned response of musical marching ecstasy. Thank you Nels, for giving us rhythm, bread and love, and for inspiring us to be more like you.

Editor's Note: We also deeply mourn the loss of our friend Nels and wish his family the best in these times.



Palouse Prairie Charter School 4th and 7th graders, along with FOC staff, took a field trip this spring to the Clearwater River

Greg Pierce Photo Credit

FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FOC SUMMER BENEFIT CONCERT W/ SMOKIN' MOJO & FRIENDS
Saturday June 16

2:00 - 8:00 PM AT 3600 HWY 8, TROY

HAMBURGERS AND VEGGIE DOGS PROVIDED - BRING A DISH

SUMMER CAMPOUT W/ PALOUSE - SIERRA CLUB
August 10 - 12

KELLY FORKS CAMPGROUND, N. FORK CLEARWATER
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Friends of the Clearwater
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