

the salmon-selway defender

News of the Big Wild

Friends of the Clearwater
November/December 1997

COVE/MALLARD DEFENSE 1997

by Grumblesocks, Chipmunk, Monkey Boy, and Zan (from the Cove/Mallard Coalition)

"You guys are heroes!" said the older gentleman at Boise's Eco-Fair a few weeks after the big bust. His support shows how far the word has spread about the Cove/Mallard campaign this summer and fall.

The action started in June this year with a small but committed group who hiked through the night to Noble Road, set up two tripods and held the logging trucks off for 3 days. The cops came, then the trucks. The Forest Service thought it was over.

On July 5, a few miles away, a group of dedicated citizens took Jack Creek Road with two 40 foot bipods. What followed was an amazing variety of lock down devices that helped the blockade hold until September 17. The confusing setup, inter-connected with cables and rope, kept the feds at their desks studying their growing library of video tape for weeks. The blockade kept the Federales and the timber contractors out of this diverse and beautiful forest, but it was a roller coaster ride. There was the elation felt at the success of our blockade and the love for our riff-raff crew mixed with the drudgery of living on a logging road and the difficulties involved in forming a working community. Despite continual problems with group communication, the people at the High Jack blockade were the bravest, most beautiful people we have ever been around, and the bunnies were relentless. (NOTE: it has been rumored that bunnies eat roads).

While the High Jack blockade held the freddies out of the Big Mallard drainage, the destruction of Noble and Little Mallard Creeks continued. On August 17, one brave activist, Slug, shut down logging on the Noble sale for several hours.

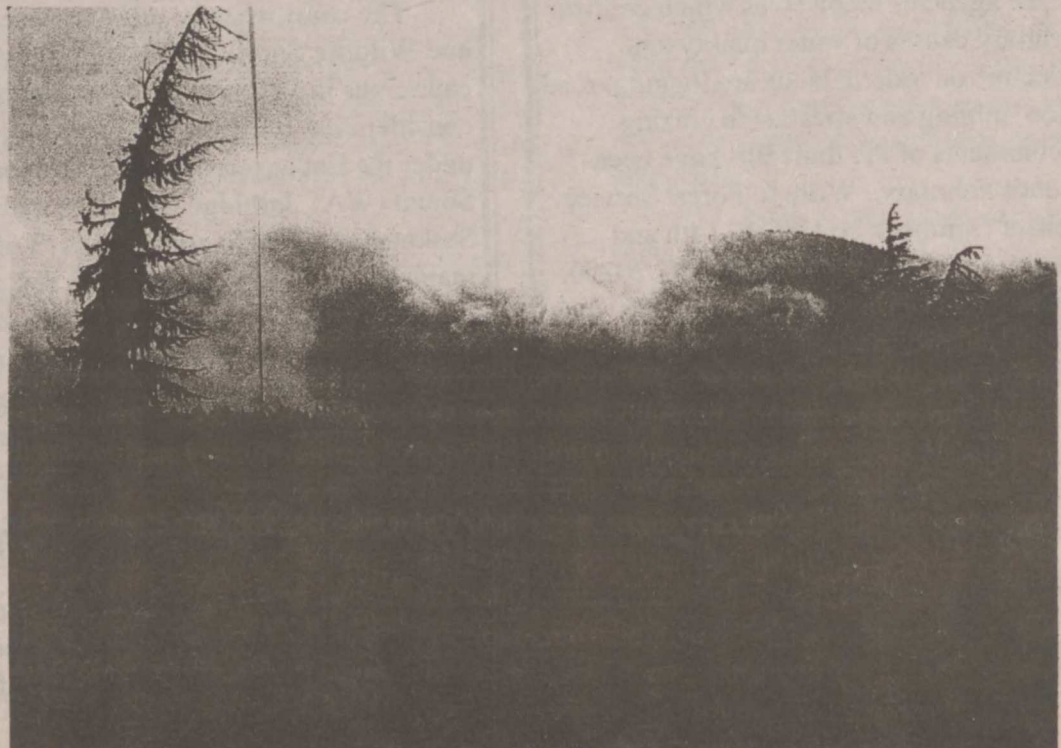
During the pre-dawn hours of September 17, the blockade activists on Jack Road were rudely awakened by camouflaged super freddies wielding high powered flash lights and bearing large guns. ("freddie" is a nickname for any forest service employee; super freddies are the law enforcement types who seem to possess a Rambo complex.)

Eyes open, moss is dripping, there are still stars in the sky, what's going on and where the hell is the video camera? The cops rounded up the support crew on the hillside, allowed us to get our kitchen supplies off the road, then closed the immediate area to keep us out of the way of their little operation. Daylight brought about thirty cops, a boom truck cherry picker,

an excavator, a timber cabling expert, and the Nez Perce National Forest smoke jumpers.

After clearing the unpersoned obstacles, the excavator, a nasty industrial nightmare, could go no further because of Smoosh. Blazing chainsaws began the tedious task of chewing apart the main 'front' slash pile. Smoosh was at the bottom of the whole tangled mess. Several saws left that encounter in far worse shape than they came in. After hours and hours of cutting and moving slash, the workers were finally faced with the prospect of removing the dragon (the device to which he was secured) and its occupant—a task that ultimately took two and a half hours with an industrial mining drill . . . (lots of happy vibrations for Smoosh). During the rock drilling operation two federal cops placed ladders onto another c'ject called the Dragon's Roost. To their dismay they found that Crusty was locked down to the culvert. The feds were able to use a diamond grinder to make a window into the Roost. They quickly pulled out some rocks, unclipped Crusty and carried him off to an awaiting vehicle. Smoosh joined Crusty after 8 hours of resistance.

The cops then moved on to deal with the first bipod around two in the afternoon. Their original plan, some insane method of cutting and reconnecting cables, was foiled by Chipmunk who U-locked (a bicycle lock) his neck to the front support cable. After yet another confused cop huddle, the excavator was used to build an illegal thirty-foot new section of road. This allowed the cherry picker to move in and the cops eventually cut the lock and carted (see Cove/Mallard on page 5)



North Fork Clearwater Country

WILD CLEARWATER

by Chuck Pezeshki, Director Clearwater Biodiversity Project

A coalition of groups called Wild Clearwater, consisting of the Ecology Center, Friends of the Clearwater, the Idaho Conservation League (ICL), the Clearwater Biodiversity Project, the Wilderness Society, the Inland Empire Public Lands Council, and the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, is currently preparing to sue the Clearwater National Forest on a variety of issues, including the White Sand timber sale (on the Upper Lochsa River), the Fish Bate timber sale (on the North Fork of the Clearwater), and violations of the settlement agreement between the ICL, the Sierra Club and the Clearwater National Forest in 1992.

The suit will cover a lot of ground—figuratively and literally. The U.S. Forest Service has been on a rampage in the Clearwater National Forest for the last three years, queuing up vital fish and wildlife habitat for destruction. The White Sand Creek area, the only remaining pristine watershed in the entire upper Lochsa and home for bull trout, steelhead, and Chinook salmon, will be logged in the coming year if the suit is unsuccessful—over 20 million board feet of trees. The resulting sedimentation will destroy this last refuge of our aquatic heritage. The Fish Bate timber sale promises to cut old-growth cedars along a potential Wild and Scenic river, the North Fork of the Clearwater River. This Fish Bate area, consisting of steep, landslide-prone slopes, has already seen its share of Forest Service management—the upper elevations have been (see Wild Clearwater on page 6)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends of the Clearwater,

As newly elected President of the Friends of the Clearwater I would like to introduce myself. I have lived in the Clearwater/Palouse watershed for the past five years where I have been active in the campaign to preserve Cove/Mallard. Currently, I am also pursuing a masters degree in Sculpture at Washington State University.

I am from the San Juan Islands where I was a founding member of Islanders for Nuclear Arms Control and supporter of the Friends of the San Juans. My background in anti-war and anti-nuclear issues has instilled in me an abiding commitment to Gandhian nonviolent direct action. In 1994 I received a Certificate of Peacemaking from the Center for Teaching Peace in Washington DC.

I have a police record that I am proud of which includes, Obstructing a Road, and being a Nuisance. As President of the Friends of the Clearwater I look forward to being of service to you and to the natural integrity of this region.

for the Earth,
Peggy Sue McRae
President, Friends of the Clearwater

NEWS BRIEFS:

Big Wild Roadshow

The 1998 roadshow to benefit the Cove/Mallard campaign and other threatened places in the Big Wild is being sponsored by the Northern Rockies Preservation Project (NRPP, a member of the Cove/Mallard Coalition). This spectacular event, a multi-media presentation including live acoustic music, is scheduled to begin in mid-January kicking off in Salt Lake City, UT then heading to the Midwest and the Northeast. Josh and Martin are donating their time and talents to tour with the show. Contact Zan at 208-384-5776 for more information, if you want to schedule the event in your town, or if you want to donate to this effort: NRPP, PO Box 625, Boise, ID 83701 nrpp@lesbois.com

ICBEMP (another government acronym)

For almost three years the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have been studying how to manage the 75 million acres of public land in seven states that make up more than half of the Columbia River Basin, including all of the Big Wild—the Greater Salmon Selway Ecosystem. The Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) is a h e plan for (mis)management of public lands.

A draft environmental impact statement (EIS) is now out for public review. The bad news is that it is terrible. It will lead to massive manipulation of our public lands, destroying the last fragments of wildness, despite scientific assessments conducted by the agencies themselves which confirm that the primary causes of water quality and fisheries decline on federal lands are logging, road construction, mining and streamside grazing.

The comments of the draft EIS have been extended until February. Write to Forest Service Chief Michael Dombeck at: USDA, 14th and Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250. Demand protection for our remaining public lands in order to allow natural processes to function and to preserve critical habitat, clean water and the recreation opportunities in these pristine forests and streams. If Friends of the Clearwater secures enough funding to prepare an alert, one will be sent to everyone who receives the *Salmon-Selway Defender*.

Artists and Photographers in this issue include: Peggy Sue McRae, Chuck Pezeshki, Sue Ring, Gary Macfarlane, and the Cove/Mallard Coalition.

Recycled Newsprint

ISC Comes Through Again

The most effective voice for Idaho's wildlands on the legal front is the Idaho Sporting Congress (ISC). This organization files critical lawsuits seeking to protect what is best about Idaho. ISC has a suit pending on Cove/Mallard (see related article) and other wild areas, including roadless land on the Payette National Forest.

Marc Fink, a tireless attorney for the ISC, filed the necessary 60-day notice on behalf of the ISC and Ecology Center, a preface to suing the Nez Perce National Forest for failure to comply with the Endangered Species Act on steelhead. Steelhead are anadromous fish, an ocean-going form of rainbow trout. They are threatened by dams and loss of habitat on our national forests and other public lands. The Forest Service has 60 days to obey the law or a suit could be forthcoming.

In a related matter, ISC won a stunning victory for clean water a few months ago forcing the environmental protection agency to enforce the Clean Water Act in Idaho.

AWR and FOWS Protect Bull Trout

The Alliance for the Wild Rockies (AWR), Friends of the Wild Swan (FOWS), and their attorney, Jack Tuholske, have won significant legal victories for the imperiled bull trout. Habitat degradation such as logging, road building, mining, and grazing on our national forests are the culprits. This species of char (a relative to true trout) inhabits only the coldest and most pristine of waterways.

The court recently ruled that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was arbitrary and capricious in failing to give a more thorough consideration of listing the species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act for the Puget Sound (WA), Jarbidge (NV, ID), and Saskatchewan (MT) populations (3 of the remaining 5). A related case by AWR and FOWS forced the USFWS to propose the two remaining US populations in the Columbia Basin (ID, MT, OR, WA) and Klamath River (OR) for listing. For more information contact AWR in Missoula or Boise (406-721-5420 and 208-386-9014) or FOWS (406-886-2011).

Friends of the Clearwater would like to thank Patagonia, the Maki Foundation, and the Mennen Foundation. Their generous support has allowed our organization to get off the ground and get our feet under us. Thank you for taking a chance on us.

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Friends of the Clearwater is devoted to the protection of Idaho's Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem, the largest relatively intact wild area left in the lower 48 states. This undiscovered gem on America's public lands contains many unprotected roadless areas and provides crucial habitat for countless species. Friends of the Clearwater helps defend this ecosystem through an aggressive Forest Watch program and with a proven track record in monitoring and appealing timber sales. Friends of the Clearwater is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions to Friends of the Clearwater are tax-deductible.

The Salmon Selway Defender welcomes contributions of artwork and articles pertaining to the protection of the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem. Articles in the Salmon-Selway Defender do not necessarily reflect those of Friends of the Clearwater. The deadline for the next issue is FEBRUARY 15, 1998.

Other Groups Defending the Big Wild

Obviously we can't fit all the groups here that we'd like to mention. Here's a partial list (see the last *Defender* for a list of others). We will continue to provide addresses in upcoming issues.

All these groups do great work and deserve support.

The Ecology Center
801 Sherwood Street Suite B
Missoula, Montana 59802
(406-728-5733).

Clearwater Biodiversity Project
1031 Springfield Road
Troy, Idaho 83871
(208-835-2999).

Alliance for the Wild Rockies
P.O. Box 8731
Missoula, Montana 59807
(406-721-5420).

Native Forest Network
PO Box 8251
Missoula, MT 59807
(406-542-7343)

Friends of the Bitterroot
POB 442
Hamilton, MT 59840

Big Wild Advocates
PO Box 318
Conner, MT 59827

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

by Steve Paulson

If a tree falls in the forest and no one hears it fall, did it really fall? One of the chronic problems of an under-funded group of volunteers is that we spend all of our energies trying to accomplish goals and do not have time to tell our supporters what we are doing. I'd like to take this space to tell of Friends of the Clearwater's (FOC's) news since last printing of this rag.

One of our board members, Gary Macfarlane, was awarded a Conservation Award for 1997. Gary received this award at the Alliance for a Wild Rockies annual Rendezvous in September. Gary has donated over two decades of his life to preserving our rare, wild, and diminishing wilderness heritage. Many groups share the honor of Gary's attention and energies. Suffice to say that FOC has been fortunate to benefit from its association with Gary. Gary spoke the following statement to Judge Williams who then sentenced him to 7 days in jail. His crime was to participate in a peaceful demonstration against the construction of the Jack Road of Cove/Mallard infamy. The eloquent statement speaks for Gary's integrity and intelligence.

A friend of mine said there is nothing more important than the song of a hermit thrush. It represents wildness, freedom, diversity, community, life and death. Nothing is less important than the corner sign flashing the latest Dow Jones closing.

How many in this room have heard a goshawk cry as she protects her nest? Or seen a rare orchid growing in a bog? Or smelled a grizzly with cubs after they passed on a trail? Or felt the texture of forest fungi?

Yet we all know about the Dow Jones average because we are alienated from Earth and don't view ourselves as part of Her; because our society is in denial and engaging in self-destructive unsustainable behavior, and because our government is a corpocracy that values iniquitous abstractions like property instead of the process of life.

We are out of balance. Our culture divides. With division comes oppression. Women, forests, children, prairies, religious sects, wilderness, ethnic groups, wildlife, and nonconformists of various types are targets. All of Earth is oppressed by deviant and aberrant behavior of a powerful minority from one species.

There is precedence in law to find citizens innocent when there is a choice between doing what is right and keeping the law. The most vivid example in this century is Nuremberg. The United States was at the forefront, pushing for the Nuremberg trials as both a moral and judicial process.

Please excuse my cynicism, but the lessons of Nuremberg have been forgotten. They were about the Holocaust. Another one is taking place. According to the renowned scientist E.O. Wilson, we are waging a biological holocaust against Earth. The extinction rate caused by our culture is unprecedented in geological history. What used to be a natural process that took many thousands or a few million years is occurring in a few decades. Another renowned scientist and an acquaintance, Dinah Davidson, studies tropical rainforests. Her research may be nothing more than a chronicle of the human onslaught as the ecosystems she is studying end forever in the conflagration. It is kind of like photographing the Warsaw Ghetto a few minutes ahead of the storm troopers.

It shouldn't have come to this. The Forest Service

has refused to obey the law and has covered up its lawlessness with a bogus closure order. It is possible an injunction could have been obtained had we been able to monitor the Jack Sale throughout the summer. In my previous experience as a professional conservationist, the Forest Service lied to me on numerous occasions, even in writing! That pattern is unchanged. It's obvious the law applies only to some.

I can't be complicit; international law prohibits it. My conscience prohibits it. I have participated in the small ways open to me. Like a good boy, I've spent the past 25 years writing Congress, the President and the Forest Service. I've even voted. But we don't really have a choice. A hydrologist told me we can't choose between smolts or volts even if we are not on the electric grid. As long as one aluminum company or one house supposedly "needs" electricity, the dams will remain in place. We can't participate except by writing letters from paper made from trees. If we refuse to participate, we are not heard. If we participate, we're labeled hypocrites.

I acted in an attempt to bring the government's lies and arrogance to light because it was far better than the harm being caused by the Forest Service and because Earth is dying. Actually, she is being murdered.

What I did was the right thing to do and I don't apologize for it.

Your verdict isn't surprising. You are just a small cog in a lifeless machine that grinds Earth and Spirit. It's time to smash that abomination and unleash the living entities trapped within it.

Under the current system I belong in jail. I can't and won't pay fines. Probation is something I can't and won't follow. I am a dissident who knows the reality of our touted system is antithetical to the naive lessons about constitutional rights taught in civics courses. I am willing to perform

community service—I've done it all my life—and help the Forest Service in their monitoring, protection and restoration duties, things the agency has purposely neglected. However, I can't perform duties for which I'm not qualified or activities which my conscience prohibits.

More important than these philosophical or ethical reasons are feelings—raw emotion, for we are emotional creatures. The connection to all life and the greater community is real to me. It should be real to every one of us.

Whether you believe in the miracle of evolution, a divine creation, or both, what is sacred remains the same. When Earth bleeds, I bleed.

FOC members have won two timber sale (TS) administrative appeals within the last six months. Natalie saved a large forested area contiguous with the Kelly/Cayuse Creeks roadless area (sometimes referred to as the proposed Great Burn Wilderness Area). She filed the appeal on the Mire Creek TS, which is on the Powell District of the Clearwater National Forest in July of this year. Gary saved another large forested area by winning the appeal of the Chicken Nugget TS on the Nez Perce National Forest in October of this year. Chicken Nugget flows into the South Fork of the Clearwater and is near the Gospel Hump Wilderness. Two other timber sales that we appealed were withdrawn by the agency. Even if we do not know the reasons and admit that other groups were working on them also, we would like to add them to our "win-list". The Tailholt TS on the McCall District of the Payette National Forest and the East Bear Trap TS on the Salmon Challis National Forest are

"back to the drawing board", and temporarily saved from destruction. By only reporting our "wins", we are ignoring many hundreds of hours of work that went into commenting on timber sales and grazing allotment decisions, as well as the appeals that did not prevail. These comments are important in that they allow us to claim "standing" for appeals or litigation on these decisions.

FOC, along with other local groups are preparing litigation challenging the Clearwater National Forest in its disregard for environmental laws. We are proud to be associated with the Clearwater Biodiversity Project, the Ecology Center, the northern chapter of the Idaho Conservation League, Inland Empire Public Lands Council, the Land and Water Fund, and the Wilderness Society. Out of this litigation effort, a long-term strategy has evolved toward the Clearwater country. We call ourselves the Wild Clearwater Coalition (the many headed serpent strikes again).

Of interest is our outreach to the college population. FOC organized several winter camping trips into the White Sands Creek TS in an effort to identify young activists and to show these young people what they are losing. FOC has established an official campus-affiliated group at Lewis Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho. We will attempt to organize the resistance against deforestation from this beachhead into timber industry territory.

In September, FOC organized testimony at the Grizzly Bear reintroduction Hearings in Lewiston, ID. Specifically because of our organizing efforts, the hearing was a huge success for the Bear. Not only was the testimony in favor of bringing the Great Bear back, but more testimony was offered for the Conservation Biology Alternative than any other alternative.

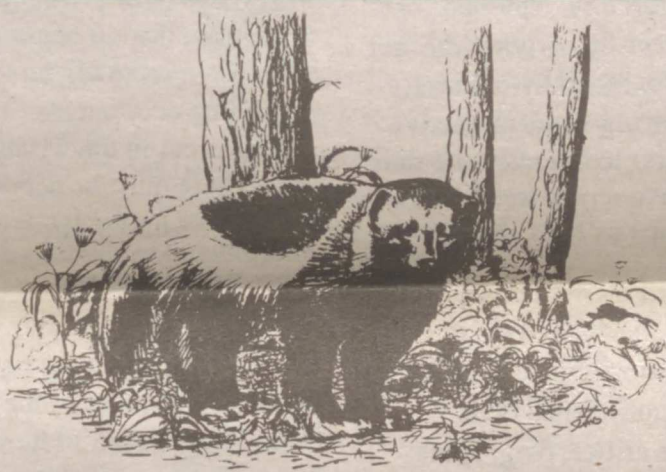
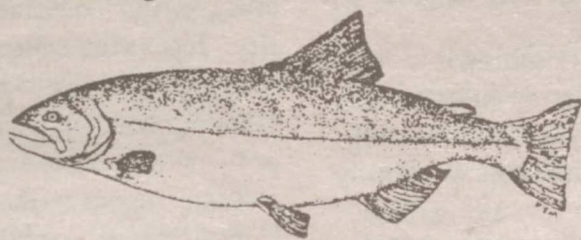
FOC has continued its monitoring in the Cove/Mallard and other timber sales. Articles in this issue of the *Defender* address these issues.

FOC is working on a map project that will produce a valuable tool for all enviros working on roadless and biodiversity issues in the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem. We will have a map of roadless areas, past present and future (our future). Presently we are compiling data and trying to work out logistics. In the next *Defender*, we will publish a preliminary map and expect unsolicited feedback from you on your areas of expertise. Once we have established what there is actually left, then we will engage in discussion on quality of the areas and develop priorities for preservation and rehabilitation. Another overlay of this map will delineate which areas have decisions but have not been deforested. We expect to establish priorities for the next decade, and encourage arguments and disagreement in the discussion.

FYI, Each of the above paragraphs represents many hundreds of hours of volunteer activism. We are committed and we are here.

Seasons Greetings!

(Ed. Note: Steve Paulson is a native Idahoan and the founder of Friends of the Clearwater. His immense knowledge, unmatched experience, and love for the Big Wild make him one of the leading advocates for our vanishing wildlands.)





Big Creek, River of No Return Wilderness

Ending Plunder on Public Land

by Darryl Echt and Gary Macfarlane

Logging, mining, and livestock grazing don't belong on public lands. Roads are very bad. Duh. Even the faintest of heart environmentalists recognize that extraction-for-profit is unjustifiable on our nation's citizen-owned land. And finally we're uttering our true intentions. As these utterances surface, it is imperative that we seize the moment—this very moment—and define clearly our vision for public forest, prairie, desert, wetland and water. We must aim our pens, our fingers, our rusty old monkey wrenches at the fundamental root of public lands destruction with clarity, consistency and unshakable conviction. This land is your land. This land is my land. This land is not for sale.

PROFIT

These united states, as perverse as they may be, were not unique in setting aside specified swathes of the country for common good. Communities and nations throughout time have established "goods"—from native wildlands to precious art—as commonly owned **treasures**. These treasures are intended for the enjoyment, spiritual pursuit, or simple admiration of its citizens and are precluded from private exploitation for profit. Selling common goods for private or personal gain fundamentally conflicts with the democratic tenet of protecting common interest. Essentially, common good or interest is some value or tangible "item" that benefits every individual. Preserving the native, North American wild heritage (our commonly held treasure) is an unquantifiable benefit to every person and to every breathing, photosynthesizing and otherwise existing being on the planet. The critical role that functioning wild ecosystems play in the survival of a living planet is thoroughly proven, documented, and beyond conjecture.

The wise use movement, however, argues simplistically that humanity must utilize every square millimeter of earth to survive. Their claim that wood products, beef, wool, oil and gold are needed from public lands for the public fails to acknowledge that it all comes at a loss. Actually, it comes at a series of losses to us. We subsidize their work. We lose the common good as it was. Then we have to buy it back from them. They are selling us what we

already owned. And they're selling it to Japan, too. We are paying profiteering enterprises to rob us and then we are buying back our stuff thoroughly depreciated. They take our family jewels and we reward them for selling them back to us as cheap costume jewelry. **SUCKERS!**

Public lands shouldn't be exploited for profit by anyone—neither by corporations nor by our politically/environmentally/culturally correct "friends." Allowing some extractive profiteers (but not others) to operate on public lands is inherently undemocratic and leads to a slippery slope that dumps us back into the quagmire.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE??

First and foremost, our nation must declare an absolute moratorium on extraction of ANYTHING from public lands FOR PROFIT. Not one more critter, twig, spore, grain, leaf or droplet. It's neither radical nor extreme. It isn't unreasonable and maybe not even futile.

It's a matter of common sense and intellectual honesty. Simply, to stop abuse of public lands requires a common definition of abuse. However, agreeing on what constitutes abuse has proven impossible. The abuse issue is often muddled by 1) conflicting information and experts, 2) some rare exceptions where commercial extraction seems benign, and particularly, 3) value systems parading as science. The past few decades of failed environmental legislation, which was designed specifically to prevent harm and abuse, is proof enough: There is no clear, commonly accepted and held definition of "abuse of public lands."

However, a definition of "commercial extraction for profit" is obvious: removal of anything from public lands that makes a profit (money) or is intended to make a profit for the profiteer. While this may not stop every harm occurring on public lands, it is a good place to start.

It makes sense to end profit on public lands as a way to clarify the purpose of public lands. Currently, the National Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and to lesser degrees, the National Park Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service—as bad and biased as those agencies are—have the added burden of operating under seemingly contradictory laws and policies (read multiple-use) that overtax bureaucratic brains. Multiple-use is a lie, a big one, because profit dictates what is most equal of the equal. These agencies can't and won't serve two masters—both the public/greater living community and the private profiteers. Despite legal mandates to the contrary, the agencies do only one thing, and they have amply proven what that is. It's time for a change.

A coherent philosophy emerges from this practical approach: not only is resource extraction for profit harmful to public lands, it harms the purpose behind and reasons for public lands. Private profit is not about public benefits, spiritual enrichment or biological diversity. Just as the concept of Wilderness is harmed by bicycle use or by placing permanent climbing bolts on backcountry climbing routes or by putting signs everywhere—as ecologically innocuous as those actions may seem—so is the concept of public lands—everything's lands—harmed by extractive profit. Besides, the philosophical is hooked to the tangible, and seemingly benign commercial extractive activities eventually have a very real way of degrading ecosystems. It's a foot in the door or a clearcut in the wilderness.

There must be accountability with profit. Abusers of public lands are accountable to no one. They are sanctioned by the government, protected by the old guard, excused, pardoned, slapped on the knuckles and allowed to move on. And they have no reason to treat the land reverently because of the void of responsibility. If the forest doesn't return, if the water runs dry, if the mountain becomes a heap of uninhabitable rubble, it is of no consequence. There is no loss, no expense, for them. They have made their buck, there is land elsewhere to exploit. Forcing industry to utilize only its

own private land corners it into finding sustainable practices or facing financial ruin. The loss, the devastation, is its own. It is then in an industry's interest, the only interest it values, to protect its assets.

Agencies (the executive branch) and congress also share in the blame for public land degradation. It is profitable for agencies to allow commercial exploitation of public land. Disincentives like the Knudsen-Vandenberg Act (KV) and

salvage logging regulations provide additional funds to agencies to promote timber sales that waste tax dollars.

As long as public land destruction is profitable, it will continue. We must eliminate the profit. We must post clear "No Corporate Trespassing" signs to keep profiteers off our public lands. As the owners, we have the right to do so.

Once we have regained our rightful place as common, collective and empowered "owners" of **public** land, it is then our charge to



Erosion from logging road, Cove/Mallard

educate **private** (including corporate) land-owners in the value of sustainable use. We must offer our support, our knowledge, our resources to reshaping the paradigm under which the **entire** landscape is treated.

But first, we get the shameless profiteering bastards off our public lands. And we won't succeed in doing so if we focus only on the nastiest, most publicized evils. We must attack the disease at its root and not be sidetracked by its symptoms.

(Editor's Note: Darryl Echt is a seasoned defender of the Big Wild. Her keen mind and passion have made her one of the most effective voices for our wildlands.)

National Forest Protection Act

On October 31, 1997, the National Forest Protection And Restoration Act was introduced by Representatives Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) and Jim Leach (R-IA) to end the commercial timber sale program on federal lands and redirect the vast logging subsidies into worker retraining, deficit reduction and alternative fiber development.

The Nez Perce National Forest offices continues with the massive and destructive Cove/Mallard timber sales. The recent listing of steelhead as a threatened species should have halted the sales until measures were undertaken to protect the trout. The Clearwater National Forest offices propose to celebrate the Lewis and Clark bicentennial by massive clearcuts near the historic trail and above the Lochsa River, a critical refuge to wild trout, salmon and steelhead. This, despite hundreds of mudslides in 1995, 1996, and 1997 that devastated the Clearwater National Forest.

The Sierra Club has issued a report which, using the Forest Service's own figures, determined that the timber sales program on National Forests operated at a net loss to taxpayers of at least \$791 million in 1996--and failed to return a single dime to the General Fund of the Treasury. It also found that the timber cut annually from National Forests now comprises only 3.9% of the nation's total annual wood consumption.

While this legislation is not comprehensive, and deals only with commercial logging on public lands, it is a positive measure. If you are interested in writing your Representative or Senators about this bill you can write them at:

Representative _____
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senator _____
US Senate
Washington DC 20510.

Cove/Mallard (from page 1)

Chipmunk off to join his fellow forest defenders, dragging him for a distance of almost 200 ft. by the bandana around his neck.

The feds then started the most dangerous and crazed part of their determined efforts on the second bipod. The first problem they faced was that the first bipod was connected to the second—directly in their way. The bipod's occupant, Echo, was locked down around both legs of the structure, under the supporting cables with a lock box (a metal device to secure one's limbs together making removal difficult). But apparently this was not enough to discourage a mob of pre-programmed timber thugs with machines and guns. They simply (just try and picture this, please) used the cable connecting the two bipods to support hers (a task for which it was not placed or intended to be able to do), cut both of her support cables, sawed off the top of the bipod, and plucked her

then hypothermic body from her perch—a series of maneuvers that would make anyone's hair turn white.

Next they tackled the double tripods and the final bipod. The tripods, unfortunately, were not occupied, due to a lack of people—a problem throughout the campaign. Yet, the tripods were positioned in such a way that they could not be moved without killing Millhouse in the last bipod. So (surprise surprise!), they illegally built yet another circumventing road. Unfortunately for their little plan, the third bipod was a scant few feet taller than the others (practice makes perfect). Thus, Millhouse was able to precariously position himself in the apex, just out of reach. The boom truck went up, then came down, then up, then down and a new gaggle of cops gathered to try and figure it out. Meanwhile Millhouse hung to his position as the freddies turned spotlights on him. Long after the sun had set, Millhouse, who had no gear (the feds had cut it down), agreed to come down. Millhouse gave Agent Didier a lecture on his complete lack of competence in stopping the freddies and the company from breaking the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act, to name a few. The exhausted cops left with their prisoners immediately thereafter, not bothering to enforce their closure order and leaving all their Subway sandwich wrappers for us to clean up. The struggle was not over.

Through the craziness that continued for hours 20, activists stood by singing, yelling support for the blockaders and warnings to the cops. There was such power in watching people willing to put their lives on the line for their beliefs. We saw amazement and even tears on the faces of some of the people from the "other side".

The High Jack bust Bipod, Cove/Mallard seems to have been the spark that ignited the hearts of people around the area. On Sept. 18, a tripod appeared on the University of Montana campus in solidarity with the activists blocking illegal logging. Four days later two huge banners in support of Cove/Mallard appeared on highway overpasses in Boise. Later that day two activists locked themselves to the doors of Boise's Federal Building stating that if the government employees wouldn't do their jobs, then they should take the day off. Two days after that, exactly one week after the High Jack bust, resistance came roaring out of the woods once again. In the darkness of night a tripod sprouted out of the road and a brave woman by the name of Sarah Sarah armed with a lock box emblazoned with the name Larry Craig was perched high above the Jack road. The shocked Forest Service took all day to show up with their cherry picker. The flood lights were turned on again and eventually she was hauled away. (NOTE: Sarah was sentenced to 30 days in jail on November 4. It is an outrageous sentence. Other trials are scheduled for February and March).

A week later, despite hourly security by both Shearer Lumber and freddies, another tripod managed to sprout up in the road with a brave guy named Huckleberry and a lock box.



A hammock somehow made its way on to a traverse line, situated through the legs of the tripod. Inside this hammock were Canopy and Chicory with their necks U-locked together hanging 20 feet above the road. It took the feds eight hours, several tree climbers, a cherry picker, and some very risky tactics to break the latest blockade including cutting apart Huckleberry's tripod while he was locked to two of the poles. That same week in Missoula there were several lock downs at the federal building and a tripod erected which stood for nine days. Also starring in the Missoula action were Winona LaDuke, Native American activist and 1996 vice-presidential candidate, and the Indigo Girls, a popular singing group. There has been crucial support from far and wide throughout the summer.

Recruiting at the national Rainbow Gathering in Eastern Oregon made the blockade possible at the early and middle stages. At one point half the people at the blockade came from the Rainbow gathering. The next wave of support came from West side EF!ers to whom we are indebted for their energy and inspiration. Wild Rockies week kicked off the amazing energy from Missoula which has kept rolling since then. These activists have been heroic in their actions to save the heart of this amazing ecosystem. Support from the local community in Moscow in the form of housing and food donations have kept activists going in the field.

Despite the successes of this summer, incredible destruction has occurred. The sales and cuts have been slowed but not stopped. With more help from activists in the field the Noble Timber Sale could have been delayed longer, but it was cut and the slash burned. The trucks and feller buncher have moved into the Jack Timber Sale. The Forest Service to date has gouged at least 25 miles of their 145 miles of planned roads. There are six of nine sales that have yet to be touched. If they finish cutting Jack they will try to go deeper and deeper into this wilderness. Cove/Mallard is at the heart of the largest, intact roadless area left in the lower 48 states. It is a big, beautiful and isolated place. The big wild of Cove/Mallard has captured the hearts of a core group of dedicated activists. It is not over.

The Big Wild needs your help! There will be a Cove/Mallard strategy session in January (tentatively scheduled for the 9th to the 11th, in Missoula). Please send help and your constructive ideas to The Cove/Mallard Coalition, PO Box 8968, Moscow, ID 83843 ph (208) 882-9755, or Native Forest Network, PO Box 8571 Missoula, MT 59807 ph (406) 542-7343, or the Northern Rockies Preservation Project, PO Box 625, Boise, ID 83701 ph (208) 345-8077).

(Editor's Note: Friends of the Clearwater participates in the Cove/Mallard campaign through: 1) providing outreach avenues like the Defender and; 2) on-the-ground monitoring of destructive activities. We have extensive documentation of deliberate agency malfeasance and violations of law. We have distributed this information, in report form, to the appropriate authorities. The replies, when we have received them, have been cursory and fail to address the issues. This information is used by the ISC in the Cove/Mallard lawsuits.)

GRASSROOTS

GRASSROOTS is a new feature of the *Salmon-Selway Defender*. We dedicate this space to grassroots activist groups that are outstanding in the field of preserving forests and biodiversity.

FRIENDS OF THE BITTERROOT

by Friends of the Bitterroot

Friends of the Bitterroot is a group of concerned citizens working to improve and enhance the lives of people in the Bitterroot Valley and the Northern Rockies—to protect the region's beauty and unique forest, water, air, wildlife and agricultural resources—to stop the destruction of our National Forests.

To accomplish these goals, we work through educational means and seek the involvement and participation of the broadest possible representation of the region's people. We are concerned about the impact of National Forest management on the environment, the need for protecting our remaining wild areas, the need to better manage our water and watersheds, and the need for a sustainable economy that does not despoil or degrade our environment.

We recognize our responsibility, to our children, grandchildren, and all future generations to leave our Earth a better, healthier place to live.

Friends of the Bitterroot formed in 1988 to help protect public lands from misuse, excessive road building, and irresponsible or illegal logging, mining, grazing, and off road vehicle practices. Farsighted legislation had already been passed, mandating that national forests be managed to encourage healthy, self-sustaining ecosystems: One resource was not to be favored over another. With these laws in sight, we organized to make sure the Forest Service and other public land management agencies in our bioregion adhered to the letter and the spirit of those laws.

We are a dedicated, credible, capable group of volunteers. Our members (more than 800) and steering committee (28) are from all walks of life, all ages, and varied backgrounds. Many of our most active members have academic degrees in natural sciences; some have worked in ranching, farming, construction and/or logging; others have businesses of their own or books that they have published; and several have extensive Forest Service experience. A few members, including Stewart Brandborg who was Executive Director of the Wilderness Society for 12 years, and Clifton Merritt, Wilderness Society Director and organizer of the field staff, are both nationally recognized leaders in the conservation movement in America. All are community minded and unflinching in their love of this wild place.

Our organization is pragmatic and nimble—grassroots to the core. We have no rented offices, low paid staff, and therefore low overhead. Our power comes from hard work, long hours, and the collective vision of many individuals. We watchdog eleven ranger districts on five national forests. This area-by-area surveillance fills a unique niche. Large conservation organizations concentrate mainly on national issues. If on-the-ground grassroots groups like Friends of the Bitterroot weren't minding the local store, it wouldn't be long until many roadless sanctuaries would be "brought under management" and the resources

they now offer would be diminished or destroyed.

Our concern is larger than just national forests, however. We also participate in reviews of National Park System plans, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's wolf and grizzly bear reintroduction plans. In Montana and Idaho we critique policies concerning timber harvest practices on state and private lands, and the management of everything from wildlife to weeds. Regionally, we have joined with the scientific community to endorse ecosystem-based approaches to Wilderness legislation. This bio-centered approach is at the heart of the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, now before Congress.

After ten years of vigilance, negotiation, appeals, and legal action, we've seen forest management practices take a turn. Harvest levels, for instance, are trending downward, more in line with what this fragile ecosystem can bear. Harvest practices are also changing.

We've also helped citizens to become aware of what is happening to their public lands "beyond the beauty strip." Region wide, we've built strong grassroots coalitions with other groups and passed on what we've learned, helping to extend the watchful eye and the democratic process.

Since Friends of the Bitterroot began challenging the Bitterroot Forest Plan and timber sales program, we've helped keep 103 million board feet of timber in its natural state (that's approximately, 12,900 acres of trees left standing). One hundred sixteen miles of roadway were never built, and 16 million board feet of timber were never taken from roadless lands. Instead, large tracts of forest in those planning areas are still intact, biological corridors are still open for genetic interchange, streams still run clean, fish and wildlife habitat is still secure, views are still unblemished; and since most timber sales have been below cost, we've saved considerable public funds. That's in the Bitterroot National Forest alone. We've also had success in four other national forests and seven other ranger districts. Our accomplishments are a testament to grassroots strength and proof of what empowered citizens can do working together.

Wild Clearwater (from page 1)

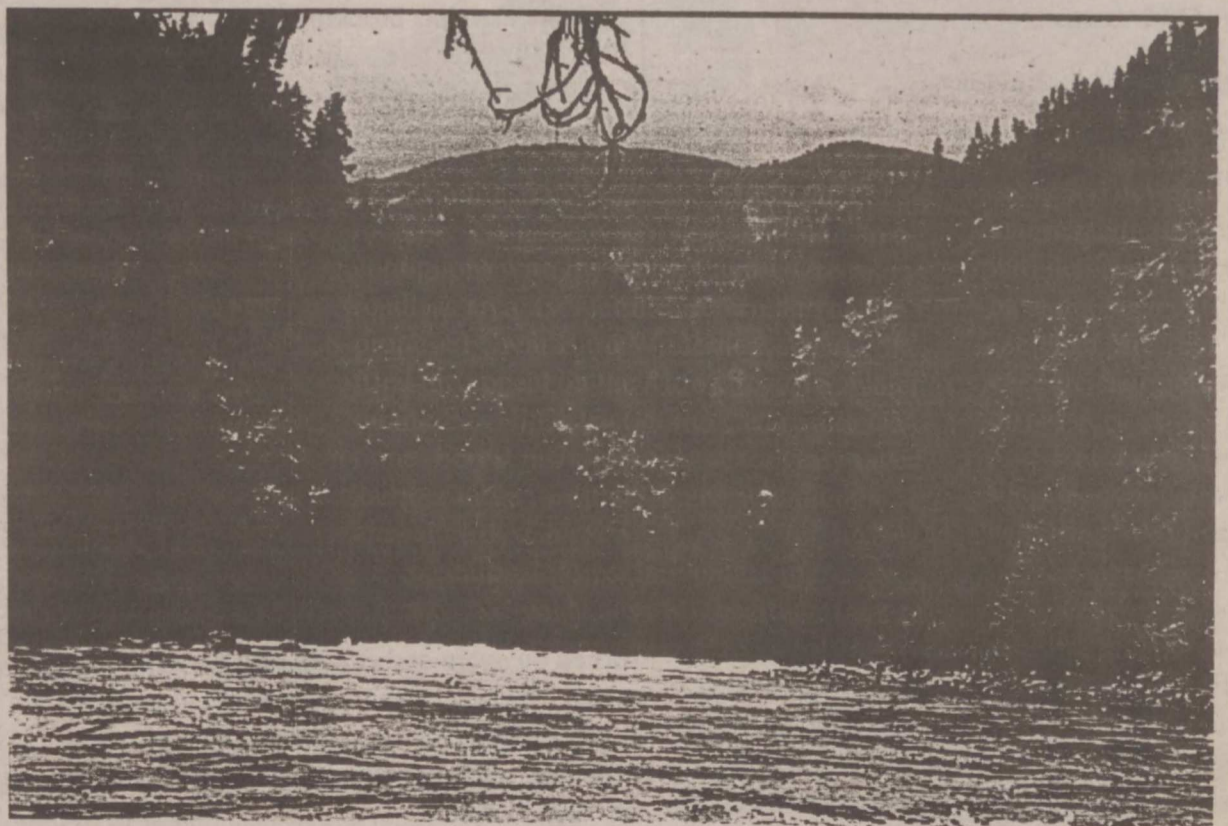
stripped of trees. Now the USFS wants to finish the job, by chopping down the trees down by the river—another 20 million board-feet.

There is a plethora of other issues: 1) the Clearwater National Forest officials' abject neglect of sensitive plants and their needs; 2) their refusal to own up to the water quality problems caused by the stalling tactics connected with the publication of a report discussing impacts from the 1995-1996 landslides and the incumbent floods; 3) their (illegal) failure to preserve habitat for native trout and salmonids across the forest; and 4) their refusal to inventory accurately the remaining old-growth on the forest. Activists from those groups mentioned in the first paragraph have lobbied the US Forest Service, submitted official comments on proposed timber sales, and written appeals during the past four years. The USFS has not only turned a deaf ear to our concerns—they have continued in the same vein with destructive project after destructive project.

Now, all that is left is the courts. With Laird Lucas, the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies lead lawyer showing the way, member groups are busy categorizing and cataloging information to be used in the Fish Bate lawsuit. Surveys are being done, as well as extensive histories written showing how, with past projects when the USFS said "no harm, no foul," there was indeed HARM and FOUL. Typically, the federal judiciary has deferred to the agency's expertise. We are going to show in a court of law how the agency's expertise has so often been wrong, and has so often been used to exploit and destroy the Clearwater country. It's a different tack—we are going to air the dirty laundry of each individual specialist who has betrayed the land.

We're going to the mat.

(Editor's note: Chuck Pezeshki is a tenacious, effective citizen defender of the Wild Clearwater. He has just finished a book on the Clearwater which promises to be enlightening, poignant, funny and informative. The description and ordering information are printed on the facing page.)



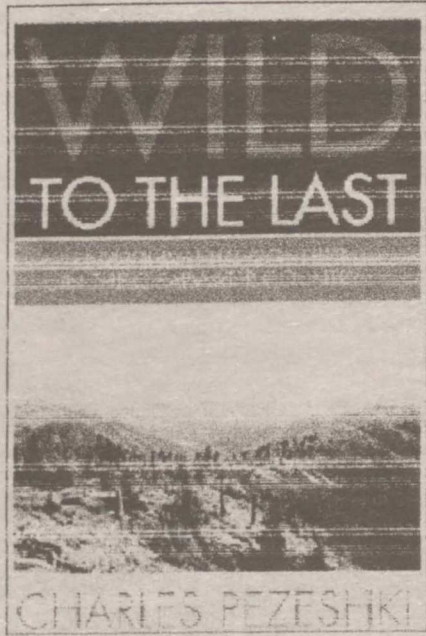
Selway River

Cove/Mallard Videos

Road Use Restricted (18 min), the video-documentary about the 1996 Jack Squat Blockade at Cove/Mallard, is available. If you would like to order this video, or *Cove/Mallard: Wilderness on the Cutting Edge* (52 min), please call Whispered Media at 415/626-4942. (\$15 individual, \$35 institution, +\$3 S&H) Whispered Media is a collective of activist-videographers dedicated to promoting environmental and social justice campaigns such as Cove/Mallard. Contact Whispered Media if you would like to support the creation and distribution of progressive/radical media by donating money, equipment, or footage, or by organizing a video screening in your community.

Thanks Emily!

Emily Loeb, a student at Colgate University, raised much needed funds and donated some to Friends of the Clearwater and the rest to the Cove/Mallard Coalition for the Cove/Mallard campaign. Emily spent the summer in Cove/Mallard helping document what was taking place.



Wild to the Last

Environmental Conflict in the Clearwater Country

Charles Pezeshki

One of the last blocks of unprotected wild country left in the Lower 48, the Clearwater Country in north-central Idaho "is a small place, not a large place to save," writes Charles Pezeshki. Serving as advocate as he chronicles this land and the people involved in efforts to preserve it, Pezeshki introduces us not only to a spectacular country, but also to the ordinary folks—a timber cruiser, a construction worker, an insurance salesman, a piano teacher—who labor against enormous odds to save it from the chain saw.

Wild to the Last is a journey, both sublime and horrific, through a magnificent natural land, complete with wild, roaring rivers, old-growth forest, and snowy peaks. It is also a desperate call for help as one of the last wild places in America is clearcut—while the public remains largely unaware and apathetic.

Charles Pezeshki is an associate professor of mechanical engineering at Washington State University. An avid backpacker, whitewater kayaker, and environmental activist, he directs the Clearwater Biodiversity Project with his wife Kelley from their home in Troy, Idaho.

Maps, photographs
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

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Remember Friends of the Clearwater this Holiday Season!

In order to save paper (even though it is recycled) and resources, Friends of the Clearwater is not sending out a special funding request this season. Friends of the Clearwater has no paid staff yet maintains an office through volunteer support. Donations keep funding projects such as the *Defender*, forest watch, Cove/Mallard timber sale monitoring, and educational programs. Please consider donating. The membership form printed below has a category for special Holiday donations. Thanks for your support!

friends of the clearwater membership form

YES, I want to join Friends of the Clearwater, and help defend the Last Big Wild in the lower 48 states. Here's my tax-deductible membership contribution:

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ROADLESS AREAS AND THE FUTURE OF GRIZ

by Howie Wolke

It is dusk at 7,000 feet deep in the Salmon-Selway wilds. The haunting ring of the varied thrush pierces the silence. A boreal owl swoops across a tiny clearing, quietly landing upon a limb of a 300 year old spruce. In the stillness of a nearby thicket sits a Canada lynx, eyes searching for the slightest movement of prey. Upon a ridge a lone wolverine wanders. Bull trout still thrive in the clear willow- and alder-lined creek. and in a nearby meadow, *Ursus arctos horribilis*—the grizzly—is excavating and devouring camas roots while her two cubs sit a few feet away, watching, learning...

The year is 2007.

Dawn. The bears have retreated to the cool shady old growth. The wolverine is miles away. In a thicket of *Menziesia* beneath a tall fir, the lynx sleepily digests an unfortunate snowshoe hare.

A distant hum becomes audible. Soon it becomes a roar. These woods are part of an unprotected roadless area, near the protected River of No Return and Selway-Bitterroot Wildernesses. The roadless area is within the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem (GSSE)—our largest wildland complex south of Alaska—and it is about to be MANAGED. Appropriately enough, the Forest Service calls what is coming "ecosystem management."

Trees fall, bushes are plundered, the soil is ripped open as the big yellow cat advances up the drainage. The sow and cubs quickly retreat, miles, finding refuge in protected Wilderness. These bears are designated "experimental and non-essential" under a clause in the Endangered Species Act. Soon the lynx, the owl, and the bull trout will also be gone.

The bulldozer completes the new logging road. Clearcutting begins. The 300 year old spruce and the lynx's thicket are gone. With Ecosystem Management, another roadless area is history.

As many *Salmon-Selway Defender* readers know, the US Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to return grizzlies to the Greater Salmon-Selway as an "experimental non-essential" population with no critical habitat delineated or protected outside of a small recovery area

They refer to this proposed recovery area as the "Bitterroot Ecosystem" which confuses the issue because the Bitterroot is really only a

small sub-set of the true ecosystem, the vast and wild Salmon-Selway Ecosystem. The government plan, formally known as the "Roots" proposal, was named for Idaho's Resource Organization On Timber Supply (ROOTS), which collaborated to devise it with two conservation groups: Defenders of Wildlife and the National Wildlife Federation.

Readers may also be aware that most conservation groups in the region support an alternative plan called the Conservation Biology Alternative (CBA), which is being promoted by the Salmon-Selway Grizzly Coalition. This coalition includes the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Friends of the Clearwater, Sierra Club, Montana Wilderness Association, Friends of the Bitterroot, and approximately 200 other conservation groups and businesses. With full Threatened species status for Griz, the Conservation Biology Alternative (CBA) would protect and restore habitat; and if this CBA were adopted, the previously described



bulldozer scenario in 2007 would become unlikely. The details contrasting these two competing plans (the ROOTS proposal and the CBA alternative) have been amply discussed in numerous articles, alerts, and editorials. What has usually been lost in this debate over grizzly reintroduction (with all its attendant emotional turmoil), has been the real crux of the matter: To no small extent, the future of many species in the Salmon-Selway and elsewhere depends upon our resolve to protect de-

facto wilderness lands, commonly known as ROADLESS AREAS. These lands are, for this moment in time, wilderness, but do not have the protection to remain so. They are public lands which are not designated "Wilderness." Nearly a quarter of our national forest system—about 45 million acres—remains roadless but unprotected by wilderness designation. And amazingly, about a quarter of that roadless 45 million acres is within the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem of central Idaho and far western Montana!

It may overstate the point to say definitively that any grizzly restoration plan lacking guaranteed habitat protection is doomed to fail, but we do know that as wildlands decline, the great bear will be subject to more relocations, more killing, and more transplants (to augment a limited population in ever-shrinking chunks of usable habitat). The Cove-Mallard debacle and the proposed White Sands "Ecosystem Management Project" are but two of many assaults upon potential grizzly habitat. None-

theless, if the goal is a healthy population of wild grizzlies, wildland habitat destruction must soon stop. Period.

In addition, we might ask what kind of a world is foreseen for Griz and for ourselves if vulnerable wild country continues to be served up to appease industry at each juncture of land use controversy. History's most profound lesson is that for the last three or four thousand years humanity's primary quest has been to tame wild nature. When all is said and done, today's conservation controversies are primarily about control. How much control over nature is enough? We fear what we don't control and so we attempt to control what we fear.

The Conservation Biology Alternative is a bold plan. It creates biological corridors. It creates jobs in wildland restoration. It would mandate the designation of critical habitat in an expanded ecosystem-wide recovery area, within which the destruction of roadless areas and other vital habitats would be unlikely. Don't link the bear to the roadless issue? Bull. What about the bull trout, the salmon, the forest carnivores all declining outside of roadless wilderness? What about the Idaho fescue, the Pacific yew? Where might the flammulated owl, Townsend's warbler, winter wren, and goshawk go in the wake of the big yellow bulldozer?

I love the grizzly and want her back. As a guide in the Salmon-Selway I want my clients to experience the primal feeling of the ancient quest to avoid winding up as carnivore dung. Though grizzlies rarely attack people (and almost never in areas open to general hunting), to share a land with such a magnificent creature—in many ways our equal—is both humbling and enlivening.

The grizzly belongs in real wilderness with minimal management and minimal intrusions. The Conservation Biology Alternative is our best shot at wildness, both for Griz and for many other creatures with which the grizzly's survival is so intertwined. Whatever the outcome of the current debate over Griz, the roadless area issue will ultimately define both the Salmon-Selway's future and the future of Griz. If we lose these last bastions of unprotected wildness, we'll lose not just wildlife that's truly wild, but the heart and soul of what differentiates the Northern Rockies from the bulk of our fragmented, paved, polluted, populated, and perpetually manipulated land called America. We'll lose the REAL America, the timeless America, the one most worthy of our defense.

(Editor's note: Howie Wolke is one of America's most ardent defenders of wilderness. He is the author of numerous articles and books on our vanishing wildlands as well as a committed activist in every sense of the word.

Comments on the Grizzly Recovery EIS were accepted until December 1, 1997. Even though the comment period is over, letters to Chris Servheen Grizzly Coordinator, US Fish and Wildlife Service, PO Box 5127, Missoula, MT 59806, supporting the Conservation Biology Alternative are still important.)

the salmon-selway defender

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