



# Salmon-Selway Defender

## News of the Big Wild

Friends of the Clearwater

Winter 2000

### Cove/Mallard: Time to Cheer?!

By Gary Macfarlane

New Forest Supervisor Bruce Bernhardt on the Nez Perce National Forest recently said in a newspaper article that the remaining Cove/Mallard timber sales would not go forth. A skeptic may say it is delusional to think that anything could be construed as a victory for all that is good and Wild, even if it bites you in the nether regions, wolverine jaws locking down and clamping shut. Then again, the recent tale of Cove/Mallard just might be the tonic for unbelievers.

Any tale like Cove/Mallard that dates back in time is bound to have twists and turns like the switch backs on the Campbell Ferry trail leading out of the Salmon River Canyon. Agatha Christie ain't got nothing on Cove/Mallard for suspense, action, or sheer lunacy.

First, a brief update on the status of Cove/Mallard. About 30-some miles of the 145 miles of roads and some 15 - 20 million board feet of the 82 million board feet have been cut. Three (four if you count the Small sale) of the Nine proposed Cove/Mallard sales have been cut. The others are yet to be sold.

More importantly, most of Cove/Mallard, about 65,000 to 70,000 acres of the formerly wild 76,000 acres is still wild and unroaded. Cove/Mallard is only a part, though it is a biologically crucial part, of the largest single roadless area in the lower 48 states. That area, over 3,000,000 acres in size includes core lands ostensibly protected as the Frank Church-River of No Return and Gospel Hump Wilderness Areas with surrounding unprotected wild lands like Cove/Mallard and Otter-Wing.

The 18-month roadless moratorium may have been the beginning of the end for the remaining Cove/Mallard timber sales and the roadless protection policy may spell its doom. Skeptics, curmudgeons and doomsayers will say 'Mere delusions'. But, some important facts should be considered. Besides, Truth, if it exists, might be found in that "objective" place--equivocation's terrain--the DMZ somewhere at the intersection of hope, rage and despair. Then again, it is more likely real Truth is somewhere in the old growth along Rhett Creek . . . in proposed cutting unit 23. (Continued on page 10)

### Lochsa E.I.S.

By Steve Paulson

Animals and plants that most people have never seen, but only dreamed about live here. To name a few; Black-Backed Woodpecker, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Coeur d' Alene Salamander, Flammulated Owl, Broad-Fruited Mariposa, Chickweed Monkeyflower, Clustered Lady's Slipper, Dasynotus, Evergreen Kittenail, Green Bug-on-a-stick,

Henderson's Sedge, Iceland Moss, Idaho Strawberry,

Light Hookeria, Naked Mniium, Pacific Dogwood, and Spacious Monkeyflower.

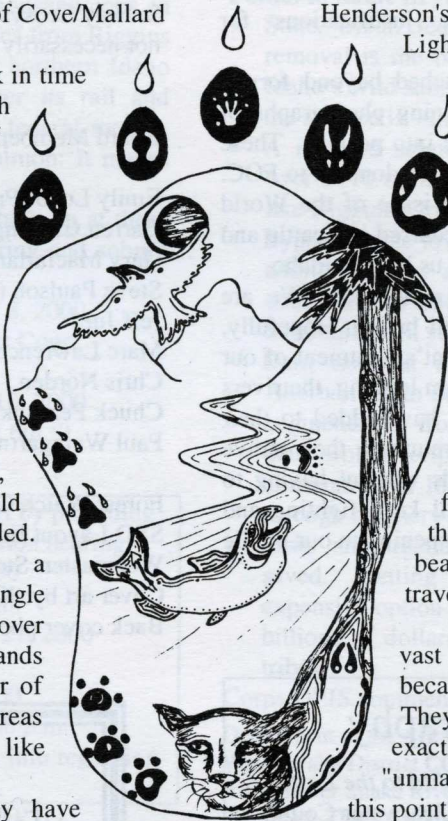
Wild Steelhead, Spring Chinook Salmon, Bull Trout, and Westslope Cutthroat Trout still spawn and die in these pristine waters. Fall Chinook Salmon are dependent on the water quality of these drainages. Bald eagles and Osprey roost in this area. Large herds of wild elk, deer, and moose still breed and die on these undisturbed slopes.

Wolves, bear, lynx, and mountain lion still hunt and raise their young here. Mink, pine marten, fisher and wolverine still thrive in these pockets of old-growth forests. Harlequin ducks still nest along these pristine and isolated streams. Grizzly bears once lived here, and will again if their travel corridors and habitat are not destroyed.

These plants and animals are extinct in the vast majority of their historical habitat exactly because of the type of action that is proposed. They are clinging to these few undisturbed areas exactly because these areas have remained "unmanaged" by the Forest Service, until now. On this point, there is no argument or no denial!

The area is rich in pre-historic tradition as a major trade route between the fish cultures of the Columbia to the buffalo cultures of the Great Plains. Coyote, the trickster, camped here many times on his way to and from the Buffalo Country. People have sought visions from the solitude and beauty of these peaks for many thousands of years. People have gathered roots and berries, fished these waters, and hunted these slopes ever since Coyote made the first people.

(Continued on page 11)



## President's Message

Hello friends-

As we begin a new year and a new millennium, it only seems fitting that Friends of the Clearwater is going through various changes and transitions of its own. As I take on the role as the new president of FOC, I am excited that in addition to the four returning board members, there will be five new faces to the board. The nine board members bring with them a myriad of interests and talents which will give FOC new facets through which we can work. Ranging from graphics to music to outreach, we will be informing the Idaho community about the importance of protecting Idaho's wildlands through the use of our different methods and talents.

Our various personal interests have already proven to be effective. At the Orofino roadless hearings, many of us voiced our opinions about the importance of protecting what is left of our wildlands. While our underlying message was the same, the framework in which we gave our reasoning varied greatly. Marc Lawrence spoke of his experience living in Potlatch and visiting national forests this summer; Garrett Clevenger spoke of our responsibility as humans to do what is right, not just for us, but for the future generations; and Gary Macfarlane discussed the scientific and economic justifications for protecting roadless areas.

This diversity in our voices has reached beyond formal hearings. Chuck Pezeshki has taken stunning photographs of the Clearwater country which he has made into posters. These are available for purchase and the proceeds are donated to FOC. We have been working on connecting the issue of the World Trade Organization and the protests that occurred in Seattle and how the globalization of our society effects us here in Idaho.

As the new year begins our work continues. We are looking forward to what the year 2000 will bring. Hopefully, we will see great changes in our government's treatment of our public lands. The forests will get a rest from logging, the rivers will clean themselves of the sediment we have added to their water, the griz and other carnivores will return to their native homes, and we can enjoy our public lands without having to hike across clearcuts. Until then, we will keep fighting and letting people know about what is really happening to our public lands.

-Emily Loeb

### Clearwater Photography

Chuck Pezeshki, intrepid activist author of *Wild to the Last*, now has a new mission: photographing the Clearwater Country.

Chuck has dozens of breathtaking photos of the land and water of this area, and he wants to share them.

If you can use photos of the Clearwater Country or are interested in purchasing any of his gorgeous full-size posters, please contact the FOC office or Chuck at [pezeshki@moscow.com](mailto:pezeshki@moscow.com)

Or visit his web site at: <http://users.moscow.com/pezeshki/>

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Friends of the Clearwater

PO Box 9241

Moscow, ID 83843

(208) 882-9755

[foc@wildrockies.org](mailto:foc@wildrockies.org)

<http://www.wildrockies.org/foc>



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 a proven track record.

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

The Salmon-Selway defender welcomes artwork and articles pertaining to the protection of the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem. Articles in the Salmon-Selway Defender do not necessarily reflect the views of Friends of the Clearwater.

#### Board Members:

Emily Loeb (President)

Garrett Clevenger (Vice-President)

Gary Macfarlane (Treasurer)

Steve Paulson (Recording Secretary)

Jeff Juel

Marc Lawrence

Chris Norden

Chuck Pezeshki

Paul Weingartner

Forest Watch Coordinator: Kristin Ruether

SSD Layout Editor: David Willard

Webmaster: Steve Mills

Cover art by: Kate Burnim

Back cover photo: Chuck Pezeshki

### Many thanks to:

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Kenney Watershed Foundation

Maki Foundation

Patagonia Foundation

for generously funding our vital programs.

Printed on 100% post-consumer, acid free, recycled paper.

## Moment of Truth for Idaho's Salmon and Steelhead

Finally, after decades of delay and billions of dollars spent trying to keep both the lower Snake dams and salmon runs, it's time for Idahoans to decide which should survive. The science is clear -- we cannot have both. If we don't take bold action now, our remaining wild salmon and steelhead runs may begin going extinct within a decade.

The next two months are critical. The Clinton Administration is holding a series of public hearings across the Northwest on two major salmon recovery documents. This is your chance to speak out and submit formal written comments. This is the moment salmon advocates have been waiting for for over a decade.

By bypassing the lower Snake dams, we can recover our salmon and steelhead, protect our heritage, honor laws and treaties, expand a \$90 million a year steelhead economy that sustains thousands of jobs, and keep southern Idaho's irrigation water.

Bypassing the dams will create over a thousand jobs in northern Idaho and be a boon to river communities from Riggins to Stanley. Bypassing the dams also presents northern Idaho with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bolster its rail and highway infrastructure with a huge infusion of federal money. Bypassing dams doesn't just make sense for salmon: It makes sense for people.

Idaho's salmon and steelhead need us to show up at these hearings by the thousands. Please attend a hearing and submit comments.

**Spokane, WA Hearing:** February 8, 2000  
DoubleTree Hotel 322 N. Spokane Falls Court  
12:00 noon & 6:30p.m.

**Lewiston, ID Hearing:** February 10, 2000  
Williams Conference Center 8th Ave & 6th St.  
12:00 noon & 6:30p.m.

FOC will be providing local support for this effort by providing workshops on the issues and bussing to the Lewiston hearing.

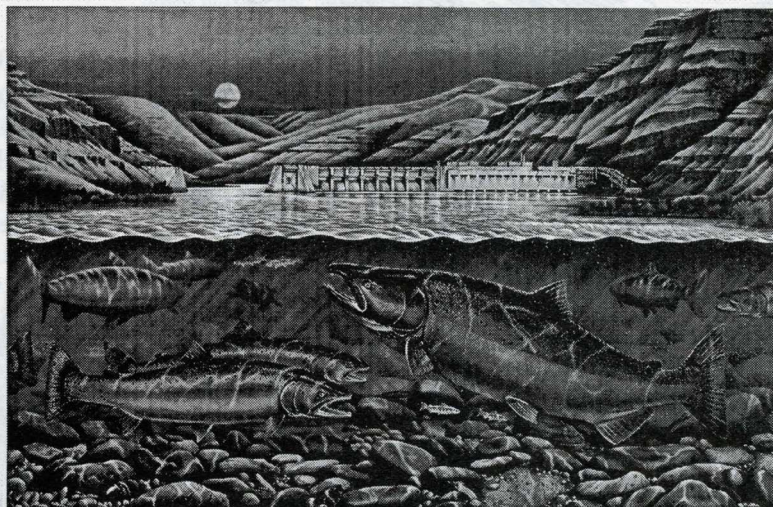
**Moscow Idaho Workshop:** Wed, Jan 26, 2000  
Moscow Community Center, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

**Pullman Washington Workshop:** Thur, Jan 27, 2000  
Neill Public Library, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Lewiston Idaho Workshop:** Thur. Feb 3, 2000  
LCSC Student Union, Room 143, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Please contact the FOC office, 208-882-9755, for info regarding these workshops or transportation to the hearings.

This page and lots of dedicated action provided by:  
Idaho Rivers United, 800-574-7481, [www.idahorivers.org](http://www.idahorivers.org)



**RESURRECTION**  
RESTORING WILD SALMON & STEELHEAD TO THE SNAKE RIVER.

©Monte Dolack/Idaho Rivers United

### Points to make in your verbal and written comments:

- ✓ State, tribal, federal, and independent scientists say dam removal is the best and probably only option for restoring Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead. NMFS is alone in saying the science is still unclear.
- ✓ A restored salmon and steelhead fishery would be worth over \$170 million a year to hard-pressed river communities like Riggins, Orofino, Salmon and Stanley.
- ✓ Bypassing the lower Snake dams will eliminate the need for additional flow augmentation from southern Idaho, which could dry up 650,000 acres of irrigated cropland and cost \$430 million a year.
- ✓ Dam removal is the cheapest alternative on the table. Alternatives to dam removal include huge increases in flow augmentation from southern Idaho, new habitat restrictions that would cripple logging, mining and grazing, and elimination of Idaho's \$90 million a year steelhead fishery through hatchery closures.
- ✓ Laws and treaties mandate that Snake River Salmon be saved. Letting the fish go extinct would be the most expensive option of all, potentially costing taxpayers tens of billions of dollars in reparations to Columbia basin Indian tribes.

Corps DEIS comments:  
Department of the Army  
Walla Walla District COE  
Attn: Lower Snake River Study  
201 North Third Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

All H Paper comments:  
Federal Caucus Comment Record  
c/o BPA  
707 W. Main St. Suite 500  
Spokane, WA 99201

**"The natural river option (bypassing dams) is the only option that can provide recovery."**

Idaho Fish and Game Commission, May 1998

**"The bottom line biological conclusion is really a no-brainer. For native fish and wildlife, a free-flowing river is better than a dammed river - and that should be obvious to anyone."**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, December 1999

**"It's not a matter of if we breach, but when we breach."**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, December 1999

## Protests Disrupt Seattle World Trade Conference

Marchers numbering in the tens of thousands converged on Seattle in the last week of November to protest a new round of talks of the World Trade Organization. The WTO is a group of national leaders and undemocratically-appointed trade representatives which tries to encourage global trade by removing trade barriers.

Every single environmental or public health rule challenged at the WTO has been ruled an illegal trade barrier. Examples of overturned laws include the US ban on importing shrimp caught in violation of the Endangered Species Act, and the European Union's refusal to import US beef grown with artificial growth hormones. The WTO's nefarious plans also include a Global Free Logging Agreement, which would lower tariffs on wood products worldwide, thus encouraging more wood consumption.

Many FOC and Cove/Mallard Coalition volunteers attended the protests, and several of them have lingering health problems from being tear-gassed and shot with rubber bullets. Seattle police have come under fire for using tear-gas indiscriminately on peaceful protesters.

There are many excellent web sites for more information on this issue as well as accounts and photos of the protests:

The Ruckus Society <[www.globalizethis.org](http://www.globalizethis.org)>, Corporate Watch <[www.corpwatch.org](http://www.corpwatch.org)>, Global Exchange <[www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org)>, Peoples Global Action <[www.apg.org](http://www.apg.org)>, Third World Network <[www.twinside.org.sg/souths/twn/trade.htm](http://www.twinside.org.sg/souths/twn/trade.htm)>, and the WTO itself <[www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)>.

**While the vast majority of the protestors were non-violent, there was a small band of people dressed all in black, with masks covering their faces, who caused destruction and tried to incite the crowd to violence.**

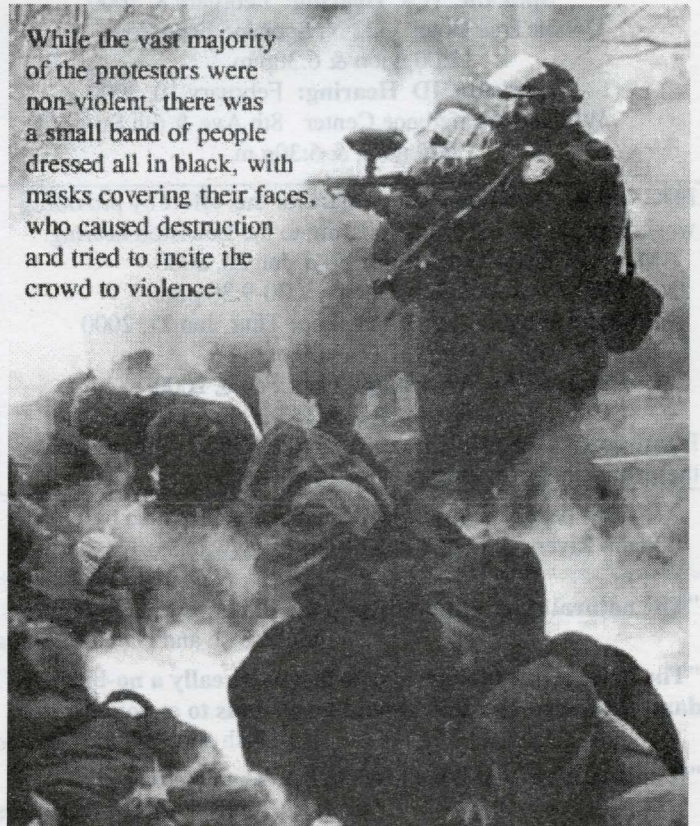


Photo by Steve Herrick



Drawing by Greg Mack

## Great Grizzly Search Announced

The Great Grizzly Search, announced in November of 1999, is an upcoming push to search for grizzly bear sightings and signs in the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem. This is a cooperative project between many organizations including FOC, the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Wilderness Watch, Friends of the Bitterroot, Great Bear Foundation, Craighead Wildlife-Wildlands Institute, Sierra Club, and Big Wild Advocates. The Great Grizzly Search will consist of outreach to get any sighting reports from the public, flyovers, and searches for hair and scat followed by laboratory analysis. A booklet has been published detailing the differences between black and grizzly bears.

This search is being undertaken because the Fish and Wildlife Service is currently planning a grizzly reintroduction plan using a loophole that does not provide the bears with protection under the Endangered Species Act. This loophole will not work, however, if there is already a population of grizzlies in the ecosystem. Persistent reports have recorded grizzly in the GSSE, and this search intends to find the truth.

Already, there have been several reports from the Forest Service employees, hunters and outfitters of grizzly sightings within the last few years. Of particular interest are the reports gathered by a retired Idaho Fish and Game officer with nearly three decades of unequalled work experience in the upper North Fork (Clearwater) drainage. The reports from these credible sources lend significant weight to the belief that a few grizzlies still roam the remote backcountry of the Clearwater, Selway and upper St. Joe Rivers.

Grizzlies are wildness incarnate and are recognized as a the penultimate wilderness species in North America. Their image is both fearful and awesome. Along with salmon, the great bears maintained and fertilized the formerly rich lowland forests of the Clearwater and Salmon River systems.

For free sighting booklets on how to identify grizzlies and their sign, contact the Great Grizzly Search at PO Box 8983, Missoula, MT 59807 or the FOC office.

## FOC Hires First Employee

This summer, FOC took the big step of hiring a full-time employee for the first time. Kristin Ruether is now FOC's Forest Watch Coordinator. This position is funded by generous grants from the Kenney Watershed Foundation, the Foundation for Deep Ecology, and numerous small donations from private individuals, which we need many more of to keep the position going (please!).

Kristin comes from Ithaca, New York where she recently graduated from Cornell University with a major in biology. Although she is fresh out of college, she is not new to forest activism. She took time off from college in spring 1998 and spent several months volunteering for FOC. She was active with her college environmental group, the Cornell Greens, and in her senior year led a local campaign against oil and gas leasing in New York's only national forest, the Finger Lakes NF.

Her current duties as Forest Watch Coordinator include commenting on all projects on the Clearwater and Nez Perce NFs and appealing most timber sales, as well as other proactive projects to prevent habitat destruction and watershed degradation in the Clearwater drainage. Right now, those projects include coordinating with the Wild Clearwater lawsuit lawyers and undertaking a review of the monitoring practices of the Nez Perce NF.

## Suit challenges timber sale program

This suit, filed by Friends of the Earth in Federal Court in Burlington, VT, against the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), contending that the timber sale program on our national forests causes more economic harm than good, and is in violation of several statutes.

The plaintiffs claim that the USFS has ignored both the significant socio-economic values of un-logged forests and the externalized costs of logging in timber sale program decision-making at every level; national, regional, forest, and project. Because they don't consider or include this information, the decisions made within the timber sale program fail to maximize net public benefits, as required by law. If the complaint is successful even to a small degree, good law and findings will

have been established and could be used slowly to expand the case across the nation.

On the other hand, the prospects for success are clouded because the judge will allow only sales in Vermont to be the focus of this suit.

When it appeared that logging had begun on four Green Mountain National Forest sales in Vermont, the plaintiffs on Dec. 16, 1999, filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction, asking the court to enjoin activity on those sales until the case could be heard on the merits. Plaintiffs also filed a Motion for Expedited Hearing, requesting a hearing on the preliminary injunction be held in January; and filed a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment, which asks the court to rule in plaintiff's favor on the Green Mountain sales, the Green Mountain Forest Plan, the National level planning, and to hold a hearing on other issues.

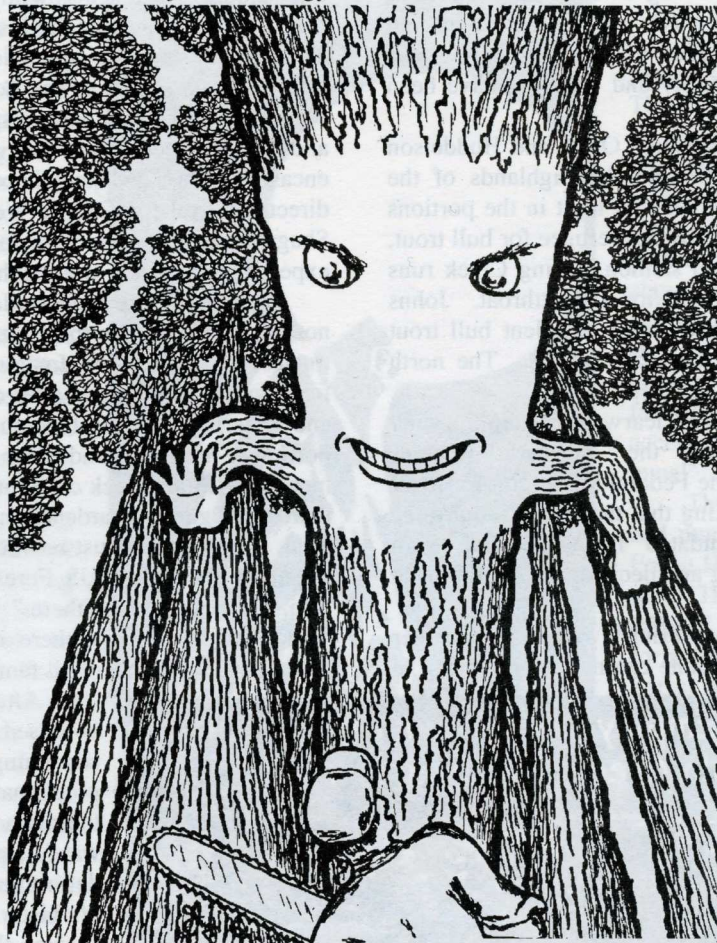
For more information, please call John Talberth, National Forest Protection Alliance (NFPA), (505)986-1163, P.O. Box 22488, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502. (NFPA) is a national alliance of citizens and organizations dedicated to protecting federal public lands from commercial exploitation, and in particular, protecting federal public lands from commercial logging.

## EPA Chills Potlatch

Potlatch Corporation, proprietor of the massive, malodorous paper mill in Lewiston, ID, may have to significantly cool its wastewater, which dumps into the Snake River. The

Environmental Protection Agency issued a new draft discharge permit in December 1999 which requires the wastewater to be cooled to 68 degrees, instead of the current 92 degree standard. It also requires toxic chemicals in the wastewater to be reduced by 64 percent. Potlatch is currently allowed to dump up to 40 million gallons of warm wastewater a day.

The issuance of the new draft permit was spurred by a lawsuit against the EPA by a coalition of environmental groups including the Idaho Conservation League and The Lands Council. The lawsuit alleged that the EPA broke the law when it extended Potlatch's expired permit, by failing to consult with other agencies concerning the impact of the discharges on endangered fish species. The plaintiffs have agreed to suspend the lawsuit as long as EPA moves forward with the new permit, but they say they will not hesitate to reinstate the suit if Potlatch stalls on cooperation.



Drawing by Greg Mack

## Watershed Protection on the South Fork Clearwater

By Gary Macfarlane

The watershed of the South Fork Clearwater River has been severely damaged by extensive logging, mining, grazing and other development. Until recently, only one sizable undeveloped area remained. This region encompasses the northern end of the Gospel Hump and the former Wing-Twenty-mile roadless area--former because it is no longer untouched. Two of the planned Wing-Twenty-mile sales have been completed and the remaining two sales--Otter-Wing and Mackey Day--are ready to be logged as the roads have been completed. Thus, the area's integrity and wildness have been seriously compromised.

Johns, Tenmile, Twentymile, Wing, Otter, and Huddelson Creeks flow into the South Fork from the highlands of the Hump. The cold water in these creeks--at least in the portions unaffected by roads and logging--provides refuge for bull trout, Westslope cutthroat, steelhead, and salmon. Wing Creek runs swift and clear with a unique population of cutthroat. Johns Creek runs through a narrow canyon with excellent bull trout habitat. Mountain goats inhabit the rocky ledges. The north aspect makes these streams moist and wet.

The suit filed by Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho Sporting Congress, Ecology Center, and the Northern Rockies Preservation Project is going to the Federal 9th circuit Court of Appeals to the sales. We are asking that the courts require the Forest Service to update its outdated 1989 EIS and again involve the public prior to making any decision on the future of this area.

Furthermore, volunteers from Friends of the Clearwater and Cove/Mallard Coalition have done extensive monitoring in the Otter-Wing Timber sale area. Since the Nez Perce National Forest has new leadership, the new personnel have, to their credit, seriously considered our monitoring data and taken measures to lessen the impact of existing roads. However, they have not ended the road building or logging in the area.

Much must be done in the South Fork before its watersheds are restored. Toxic sites from past mining must be cleaned up and roads re-contoured and put to bed.

The Forest Service must also make the right decision on ongoing and proposed destructive practices like dredge mining in the South Fork, grazing that causes riparian damage, and road building and logging which introduce sediment into streams. Ending the remaining Wing-Twenty-mile sales--Otter-Wing and Mackey Day--would be a good place to start.

## On the Road to Fool's Weippe(s) with Lewis and Clark

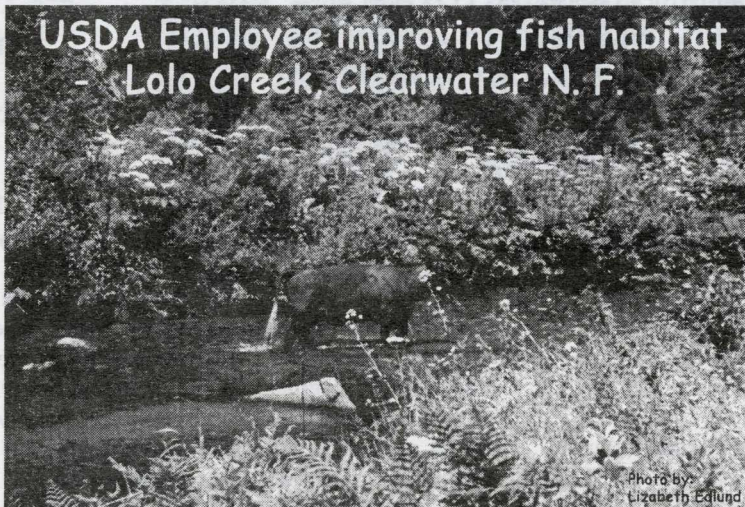
By Gary Macfarlane

Whole legions of folks in SUVs and mini-vans, along with a few RVs and Subarus thrown in, will cross that swath of wild country now known as the Clearwater National Forest in the next few years. These eager history buffs--probably the same kind of people who re-create civil war battles in full regalia, or who dress up like the knights and ladies of yore and participate in jousting tournaments--with holy script in hand (*Undaunted Courage*) will re-create the historical journey on a path that was already well worn by generations of Nez Perce and others over 200 years ago. Just as the Lewis and Clark expedition took a wrong turn here and there in spite of the fact the trail was worn and used for centuries, so will the new intrepid explorers, encased in glass and steel, become woefully lost and point in all directions to the definitive Weippe Meadows, the non-forested Shagri-la with horse feed so sought after by the Lewis and Clark expedition after they crossed the Bitterroot Divide.

And lost these modern day mountain folk will be, though not in any danger, as they gaze in every direction and spot the treeless Weippe Plain. Imagine what a family in a mini-van from Indiana might see after crossing Lolo Pass from the east and entering the most remote, least-developed and wildest portion of the Lewis and Clark Route. Papa points to the square meadows (Plum Creek clearcuts, upper Lochsa) and exclaims in words he figured a hardened mountain man of 1805 would have used, "Out yonder must be Weippe." Mama points to the not-so-square meadows (US Forest Service clearcuts) and retorts, "No, Weippe is over there." Given the landscape (ergo, its human modifications), there is ample opportunity for family arguments, the staple of all family vacations.

After miles of dusty roads, hours of confused map reading and head scratching, and innumerable proclamations that each and every one of the plethora of clearcuts and timber sales was Weippe, Indian Post Office offers the definitive view from the top for our family of historians. Of course, the Forest Service clearcuts on Squaw Creek must be Weippe, then the cuts way in the distance in the upper Lochsa must be Weippe, though isn't that looking backward? Dakota, the 12-year-old son, notices the mark on the windshield left by Clark's nutcrackers and declares it Weippe. He forgoes his snack as the family races the dust cloud to the west.

After more dust and miles, the clearcuts in and around Marten Creek are proclaimed Weippe, then, after jaggging south toward Mex Mountain, the Eldorado drainage has Weippes like the sky has stars. Finally, the family, being witty vacationers, dubs these moonscapes (what the Forest Service euphemistically calls temporary meadows) Fool's Weippe(s). Come to think of it, maybe we should all refer to clearcuts as Fool's Weippes when speaking to Forest Service personnel from the Clearwater National Forest, at least until all the hoopla of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial has passed.



# On the Road to Orofino

By Natalie Shapiro

Maybe it's a long shot, but it's still a shot. President Clinton's roadless protection plan could get screwed around with until it's as lukewarm and worthless as Clinton himself. But by golly, it's a chance to protect the rest of our magnificent wild places! That's why I dove into this thing, helping organize people to WRITE LETTERS, and in the process, forgot to clean my room for a month.

Last October, Clinton directed the Forest Service to conduct an analysis on the remaining roadless areas on National Forest land, with the intent to provide lasting protection for them. On October 19, the Forest Service released a Notice of Intent (NOI) that explained the agency's proposed process to implement this directive. The NOI states that the proposal will consider whether the Forest Service should prohibit roadbuilding, logging and other activities that may degrade the ecological characteristics of roadless areas. The public was invited to comment on the NOI, and the comment period ended December 20. Thank you to all who commented!!

The public, from all angles, really got excited about this one. Enviro's were happy for a chance at protecting roadless areas; Militia members freaked out, convinced the next step would be confiscation of their guns; Off Road Vehicle users roared that they had no other way to see the woods. Hey, the roadless proposal was the talk of the town!

Fortunately, there's a rocking bunch of people in northern Idaho who have the guts to stand for the truth. These people took time from their busy schedules to help Friends of the Clearwater get the word out to the public. These amazing volunteers helped fold, label and mail Action Alerts, tabled in public places, and hopped a bus to Orofino to publicly testify in support of roadless places. We were also lucky to be able to work with Larry McClaud of the Idaho Conservation League, which really helped create a great organizing team.

The Forest Service held public hearings in various locations in the country, where the public could testify about the roadless proposal. In Idaho, there were hearings in Boise, Orofino and Coeur d'Alene. Friends of the Clearwater went to the Hot Spot of Wise Use Activity in the state-Orofino, the headquarters of the Clearwater National Forest. We chartered a bus to take pro-roadless folk to this hearing. The hearing was in the high school gymnasium, packed full with about 450 anti- and 50 pro-roadless people. Things were tense.

The Clearwater National Forest took testimony and Tom Kovalicky, ex-Nez Perce NF Forest Supervisor (the guy that signed off on Cove Mallard in 1990), was the moderator. Clearwater National Forest Supervisor Jim Caswell introduced

the roadless policy. As you may know, this guy hates wild places. He made some great remarks, including "Idaho stands out like a sore thumb in terms of the number of roadless acres."

People were chosen by lottery system to speak. Surprisingly, it was fair-a third of those picked were us. Of course, we got loudly jeered at, and the Forest Service never once told the crowd to shape up or else. In elementary school, if you can't be good, then you're told you can't play. Too bad the Clearwater National Forest folks never learned that one.

But we spoke anyway, of our love for wild places and their ecological and economic importance. The biggest issues with the anti-roadless people seemed to be government control and

access. "They're trying to shut us out of our forests" and "how will disabled people see the woods?" were big themes. They neglected to mention the hundreds of trails available for their machines in non-roadless areas, and the fact that riding ORVs isn't the only way to see the forests. Right wing paranoia shined on with anti-Clinton rhetoric and mutterings about UN and gun control. A local militia called the Idaho Mountain Boys, is stepping up their organizing efforts because of the roadless policy. My favorite line was "they're taking away our access now-next they'll take away our guns!"

Then there was the attempt to twist and mutate science with "Forest Health! Forest Health! Gotta log it or it will burn up!" The real scientific facts show that 87% of those areas considered high risk for wildfire were in ROADED areas. The Forest Service themselves discovered that fact. And the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (an ongoing joint project of the Forest Service and BLM) has found that roadless areas are in better health than roaded areas.

I busted up when I heard timber mill managers state, in all seriousness and attempted sincerity, "we deeply care about watersheds, and fires dump sediment in watersheds." WHAT!! These are the same guys that have destroyed our watersheds with silt from logging! They forget to add that while fire may dump sediment into watersheds for a year or so after the fire, logging roads dump sediment for decades after being built. Why do you suppose there's so many creeks and streams without fish now?

We survived the evening-nay, enjoyed it!- and were even commended on our bravery by a woman who told us that although she didn't agree with us, we were brave to stand up for what we believed in. We rode back to Moscow, giddy with excitement and anticipation for the next round of hearings in the spring or summer of 2000. That will be when the Forest Service releases a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with various alternatives for a roadless policy. The comments faithfully submitted by you and other wonderful souls will be considered in the development of these alternatives. The public will be able to comment on this Draft EIS, so stay tuned!



Woodcutting by:  
Kate Burnim

# The Forest Watcher



## Beetlemania and BURPs

By Kristin Ruether

Timber sales to "cure" beetle infestations are all the rage for Idaho's national forests these days. The largest debacle to result from this line of thinking is the massive, forest-wide Douglas-Fir Beetle Sale on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The IPNF is planning on cutting 150 million board-feet of forest (for reference, Cove/Mallard was supposed to be 81 million board-feet), mostly in watersheds already severely damaged by harvesting, in the name of fighting beetle infestations and preventing catastrophic fires. Several groups including The Ecology Center and The Lands Council are leading the charge against the sale.

Not to be outdone, the Clearwater and Nez Perce NFs are doing their best to keep up with their northern neighbor. While they haven't tried anything on the same forest-wide scale as the IPNF, they are incorporating beetle-related rationales into the majority of their timber sales recently. Examples include the Schwartz Creek, Carpathia, 514 Salvage, and Bugkill Salvage sales on the Clearwater. These sales typically claim that the sale is necessary to contain the beetle "epidemics," that the tree stands will be "severely under stocked" unless they are clearcut and replanted, and that failure to cut would result in high risk of "catastrophic fire" due to accumulation of dead woody debris. Following a twisted logic understood only by people with forestry degrees, several sales actually claim that the cutting of even-age infested trees must occur to transform the stand into a late-seral forest. Yes, you heard it correctly: "Clearcutting for old-growth!"

What is the creature responsible for this feeding frenzy? Is there any truth to these cut-for-health rationales? The humble Douglas fir bark beetle, and no. The Doug-fir bark beetle is a native beetle that has natural population booms. We have not seen evidence to suggest the current level of beetle "infestation" is outside the range of natural variation.

Studies have found that about 40% of attacked trees survive-- so it is not the "emergency" situation the Forest Service implies. Also, research has shown that logging increases risk of beetle outbreaks for a variety of reasons. Stumps and wounds from logging equipment may attract beetles. Logging slash left on the ground provides beetle habitat. Logging and road construction can also spread root diseases. In other words, logging will not cure the beetle infestations in Idaho. Finally, research has shown that areas that have been logged generally experience more intense fires, in contrast to the Forest Service assertion that leaving the trees unlogged will lead to "catastrophic fires." Contact the FOC office for scientific citations on this issue.

One more recent proposal worth mentioning is the recent attempt by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to de-list all tributaries of the Lochsa River from receiving protection by the Clean Water Act. The DEQ has a long, proud history of evading its responsibility under the CWA to ensure non-degradation of Idaho streams. This most recent de-listing charade results from DEQ's new Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Project (BURP). The BURP involves doing an extremely

simplicistic, non-quantitative study of water quality and fisheries health on streams. For instance, if a single fish of each age class is found, a stream is considered to be "fully supporting" its native fisheries. The DEQ performed BURP on all currently listed streams in the Lochsa drainage and-- surprise-- found that all streams were doing great (fully supporting their beneficial uses). The DEQ used this as proof that all streams must be de-listed from the Clean Water Act. Fortunately the chances are slim that the Environmental Protection Agency will approve the de-listing, so it will probably go nowhere. FOC and other groups submitted biting comments to the DEQ and will not let their BURPy plan go forward without a fight.

## Illinois Judge Freezes Small Timber Sales Nationwide

By Kristin Ruether

An Illinois District Court judge issued a nationwide injunction on Forest Service logging, freezing all small timber sales which are "categorically excluded" from analysis, and which have been issued since September 16, 1998. The October 1 ruling is the first ever injunction covering all National Forests, and affects many of the small sales in Idaho.

The ruling was spurred by a lawsuit brought against Illinois's Shawnee National Forest by Heartwood, a grassroots regional environmental group based in Indiana. The suit challenged a specific categorically excluded (CE) sale on the Shawnee as well as the Forest Service policy which allows the sales to be excluded from thorough analysis.

Forest Service policy permits green sales of up to 250 thousand board-feet and salvage sales of up to 1 million board-feet to go through a streamlined analysis process which is much less rigorous than the usual Environmental Assessments or Environmental Impact Statements which are prepared for larger sales. The CE process often fails to analyze effects on wildlife as well as cumulative effects of the sales. The CE process is not supposed to be used when the project area contains extraordinary circumstances including threatened or endangered species, steep slopes, or Congressionally-designated areas, although the Forest Service has argued that point and often proposes CE projects in these areas.

The judge found that the Forest Service CE regulations were "unlawful," "arbitrary and capricious," and the decision stated, "The Court cannot discover any meaningful analysis providing support for the [Forest Service's] conclusion that the categorical exclusion of timber harvests of this magnitude would not have cumulative effects on the environment."

The injunction has frozen many timber sales in central Idaho. The Clearwater National Forest, according to its most recent NEPA Quarterly report, has eighteen CE timber sales currently being planned, which now are effectively cancelled in their current form. The injunction does not affect any of the larger, more contentious timber sales such as Otter-Wing or North Lochsa Face.

Copies of the decision and more information can be found at <[www.heartwood.org](http://www.heartwood.org)>.

# NFPRA, NREPA, & WWWEBROTVLSA\*

By Gretchen Stewart

## NFPRA:

As the word gets out, support for The National Forest Protection and Restoration Act (NFPRA) continues to build at all levels; at the grassroots with individuals and local groups, within regional and national organizations, and within the halls of the 106th Congress where the number of co-sponsors reached 72 at latest count (January, 2000).

NFPRA, (House Resolution 1396), first co-sponsored by Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) and Jim Leach (R-IA), eliminates the commercial logging program on federal public lands (including all National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, BLM Land, and National Parks), and assists communities dependent on this program with economic recovery and diversification.

No matter what you call it, the bill is a long overdue and bold attempt to stop the current destruction of our National Forests, to protect what remains, and to restore some of what was lost through our U.S. Forest Service (USFS) timber sale logging program.

To back up its proposals, H.R. 1396 lists these significant findings:

- Most Americans do not support use of Federal public lands for commercial goods.
- Recreation and tourism generate 30 times more jobs and income than commercial logging.
- Timber from public lands accounts for less than 5% of U.S. annual timber consumption.
- The majority of remaining pristine forests in the U.S. are on Federal public lands.
- The current USFS timber program results in an enormous net loss to taxpayers annually.
- Healthy, intact, forests provide significant watershed benefits.
- Commercial logging damages watersheds, fishing and recreation.
- Commercial logging increases the risk and severity of fires.
- Americans' watersheds should be protected to prevent damaging and deadly floods.

Based on these and other findings, this version of NFPRA specifically provides for:

- Immediate protection of all roadless areas 1000 acres or greater by canceling existing timber sales in those areas.
- Immediate prohibition of all new timber sales, cancellation of Salvage Rider sales, and the phase-out of all existing timber sales within 2 years from passage of the bill.
- Projected savings to taxpayers of over \$300 million per year.
- Worker retraining, giving preference to displaced timber workers for jobs in a scientifically-based ecological restoration program for federal public forests, using monies redirected from current logging subsidies.
- Replacement of the present 25% logging-based revenue sharing payments to states for counties and local governments with dollars redirected from current logging subsidies.
- Grant awards to entities developing or producing environmentally sensitive non-wood alternative paper and construction materials, funded with monies redirected from current logging subsidies.

## NREPA:

Way back in September of 1993 in the 103rd Congress, The Alliance for the Wild Rockies introduced a bill designed to re-connect many of the separate pieces of public lands found throughout the northern Rocky Mountain ecosystem.

The bill was most recently reintroduced on February 2, 1999 in the 106th Congress, as House Resolution 488 (H.R. 488) Called "The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act of 1999," (or NREPA).

For the sake of the fragmented, but still largely salvageable northern Rockies ecosystem, this bill proposes linking certain public lands in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming by designating them variously as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, national park and preserve study areas, wild land recovery areas, or biological connecting corridors.

By these official designations and protections it is hoped that current "islands" of biological diversity may slowly merge back into one large, relatively intact ecosystem, thus better ensuring the long-term health and survival of plant and animal populations.

H.R. 488 currently has 79 co-sponsors, and two more are committed to sign on by early February, 2000. In March the Sierra Club, Alliance for the Wild Rockies and other groups plan to have a Congressional lobby week targeting potential new sponsors.

## What you can do:

- ✓ Call Friends of the Clearwater office (208)882-9755. We can send you (for the cost of postage and handling), a powerful 19-minute Sierra Club video, "This Land is Your Land," for your own use and for educating others. We have several other excellent videos available for short-term loan as tools in your personal and public education efforts.
- ✓ Get informed! To get more info write, call, or visit:

(for NFPRA info.)

National Forest Protection  
Alliance, P.O. Box 8264,  
Missoula, MT 59807  
(406)542-7565  
[nfpa@wildrockies.org](mailto:nfpa@wildrockies.org)

(for NREPA info)

Alliance for the Wild Rockies,  
P.O. Box 8731  
Missoula, MT 59807  
(406)-721-5420  
[awr@wildrockies.org](mailto:awr@wildrockies.org)  
[www.wildrockies.org/awr](http://www.wildrockies.org/awr)

Another good resource is Native Forest Network's Public Lands Project at:

[http://www.nativeforest.org/campaigns/public\\_land/](http://www.nativeforest.org/campaigns/public_land/)

- ✓ Find out where your Representative stands on these bills (Visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>). Thank your Representative for co-sponsoring if he/she does; urge your Representative to support these bills if he/she does not.
- ✓ Write letters to the editor and opinion pieces explaining and supporting these bills.
- ✓ Talk with your friends, family, and those within your circle of influence, take them to the wild places. Ask them to take action, too.

\* When Will We Ever Be Rid Of These Very Long Silly Acronyms?

# Cove/Mallard Coalition and Six Individuals File Police Abuse/Conspiracy Lawsuit

By Joshua Burnim

Federal Court, Moscow, Idaho: On August 20, 1999 the Cove/Mallard Coalition and six individuals filed a police abuse and conspiracy lawsuit over a campaign of terror that was brought throughout the night of August 21, 1998 against peaceful protesters of logging and roadbuilding in the Otter-Wing area, roughly 20 miles Southeast of Grangeville, in the Nez Perce National Forest.

On this night, about one year ago, protesters' lives were threatened and their personal belongings were stolen, burned, and vandalized. As the lawsuit alleges, several people including employees of Highland Enterprises and Shearer Lumber drove up to the protesters' camp, yelled death threats, and fired shotguns into the air. This was done repeatedly during the night. Some time after midnight, Plaintiffs were chased into the woods at gunpoint, and most of their food, clothing, backpacks, camping gear and personal belongings was grabbed and kept or burned in a bonfire that was created in the woods.

The Forest Service and Idaho County Law Enforcement did a minimal investigation both the night of the terror campaign and the morning after, refused to follow any leads, intentionally destroyed evidence, and took the opportunity to use the campaign of terror as a justification for trying to persuade Plaintiffs to abandon their protest.

Plaintiffs' attorney, Lawrence Hildes, said, "Despite having worked on numerous cases of police abuse, I am shocked at the collaboration between the armed loggers and the police that are suppose to protect people."

The Plaintiffs' allegations are contained in a 28-page complaint. The allegations are supported by police reports from August 21 and 22, 1998 that were obtained through the appeals process of the Freedom of Information Act.

The complaint alleges that the United States Forest Service, Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho County Sheriff's Department, Highland Enterprises, Shearer Lumber, and employees of these entities conspired to violate the civil rights of Plaintiffs. By participating in, planning, and/or supporting the threatening conduct, the Defendants conspired with the intent of causing mortal terror and destruction of property, and thereby causing Plaintiffs to abandon their First Amendment protected dissent against the destruction of public wild lands.

The Plaintiffs are the Cove/Mallard Coalition, Michael Bowersox, Michael Tenebaum, Kristin Gustafson, Marcus Baker, Molly Karp, and Robert Zweifel. They are seeking justice and equal protection under the law. No amount of money for damages has been specified yet.

"The purpose of this lawsuit is protection of everyone's First Amendment rights," stated Joshua Burnim, an organizer with the Cove/Mallard Coalition. "Citizens have a right to protest logging and road building on public land without having their lives threatened and property stolen."

Plaintiff Michael Bowersox stated, "The law enforcement's reaction both before the incident and after has forced us to take this action to protect our right to engage in peaceful protest and have equal protection under the law."

"I would rather find common ground with the loggers than bring this lawsuit," said Kristin Gustafson. "We need to build community that lives with Forest Ecosystems in a sustainable manner; not fight with each other. Unfortunately, the unequal enforcement of the law has created a dangerous climate that leaves us no choice. Our lives are in danger, yet we cannot turn our backs to the destruction of the last wild places."

Like the Cove/Mallard area, the Otter-Wing area is contiguous with the largest roadless area in the lower 48 states and contains important watersheds for the threatened steelhead trout and bull trout. Protests of roadbuilding in the Otter-Wing area are continued through the summer.

*Copies of the 28-page lawsuit are available through the Cove/Mallard Coalition*

## Cove/Mallard: Time to Cheer!?

Continued from page one, by Gary Macfarlane

Imagine in your mind Dan Akroyd and Jane Curtain, of Saturday Night Live fame, doing their point/counterpoint discussion.

Fact One: The Cove/Mallard Environmental Impact Statements will be over ten years old after the moratorium is over. Most site-specific EISs need to be supplemented (that means a whole new EIS with public comment period) after five years.

Counter-point One: This is Idaho. Environmental legal precedents are ignored. Idaho Federal District Judge Lodge, regardless of how respectable he looks in his black robe and snowy-white coif, will never rule for the wild, regardless of the legalities involved.

Fact Two: Forest Service personnel have admitted that the Cove/Mallard sales are in trouble. The agency will withdraw the outdated EISs because of public and internal concern about their age.

Counter-point Two: This is Idaho. The Freddie's, regardless of how green they look in their polyester uniforms, will never do anything good for the wild, especially Cove/Mallard.

Fact Three: Forest Service Chief Dombeck and the administration have come up with the roadless moratorium and the proposed roadless protection policy specifically for Cove/Mallard and other threatened areas in the Wild Rockies. Why else would all these other areas in the country be excluded from the moratorium and proposed policy if this moratorium wasn't designed to protect Cove/Mallard and the Wild Rockies?

Counter-point Three: This is Idaho. Besides, Dombeck and the Administration are smart at playing politics. There are no democratic votes anywhere in the Gem State, so the administration loses nothing and gains support from the mainstream greens. Besides, this so-called moratorium is only temporary and the proposed roadless protection policy is not final and may never be. That's just enough time to get people focused on a plethora of other problems and then, bam, Cove/Mallard sales will be back with a vengeance.

Fact Four: The Forest Service said in the newspaper, in summer 1999, that the remaining sales won't go forward.

Counter-point Four: This is Idaho. In other words, Larry Craig, Helen Chenoweth, Dirk Kempthorne, Mike Crapo, J.R. Simplot, Boise-Cascade, Potlatch Timber Company. Besides can anybody believe the Forest Service?

Well, the upshot of all of this is celebrate! And keep vigilante! And, most of all, thanks from Friends of the Clearwater to many fine organizations and individuals who made this possible--especially the Cove/Mallard Coalition, and also The Ecology Center, Idaho Sporting Congress, Seeds of Peace, Northern Rockies Preservation Project, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Cold Mountain/Cold Rivers, Ancient Forest Bus Brigade, The Lands Council, Clearwater Biodiversity Project, Native Forest Network, and others!

## Observations

by Greg Mack

*Sitting and watching the moon shine through the day light, the forest surrounds the circular field of monoliths, dead trees standing as monuments to themselves.*

*The natural graveyard stands silent as birds hop and knock about.*

*The moon demands recognition as it slowly floats between two pillars.*

*The trees contrast themselves as the fall air hints of the slumber shortly to come.*

*A young white tail bounds through the grass slowly waving good-bye.*

*The moon hangs on a tree now, patiently waiting for its momentum to set itself free.*

*Swallows silently wing by.*

*The moon peers over the tree.*

*Canada's own make some noise as they dance above the trees, then turn and disappear into the silence again.*

## Lochsa E.I.S.

Continued from page one, by Steve Paulson

Lewis and Clark and their Corps of Discovery followed the ancient trade route of the Lolo Trail on their journey to and from the Pacific Ocean. From the top of Sherman Peak, they erroneously envisioned a shortcut that would lead them out of this mountainous wilderness onto the prairie grasslands, visible in the distance. They wandered around, lost in the rugged terrain of Fish Creek, until they were forced to regain the Lolo Trail and follow its winding course to the Weippe Prairie and their Nez Perce saviors. This area remains the one segment of the entire Lewis and Clark Trail that remains in its wilderness state.

The Treaty of 1855 and the "Steal Treaty of 1863" established the rights of indigenous nations in this area. The non-treaty Nez Perce embarrassed, harassed, and out-manuevered General Howard's army along this route in the Nez Perce War of 1876. One has to wonder what this area would look like, today, had they only been successful in their struggle against European greed.

The intrinsic value of the Lochsa River was recognized by Congress when it was designated by the Wild And Scenic Rivers Act. The Forest Service established the Lochsa Natural Research Area to protect a rare and valuable habitat within this area.

The Endangered Species Act, in addition to mandating a procedure to follow before disturbing many of the animals that live in this area, protects rare animals and their habitats, as well as the habitat of animals that historically have lived in this area. The National Forest Management Act also protects animals in this area, mandates preservation of water and soils resources, size of openings, as well as the reforestation of the area after logging. The National Environmental Policy Act mandates a procedure to follow before consuming resources such as these, which includes cumulative effects and monitoring programs. The Clean Air Act protects the air resources.

The Clearwater National Forest Plan (and the Forest Service Manual), among other things: (1) set aside portions of this area to be managed as wilderness, (2) agreed to protect the water resources of these streams, and (3) established guidelines for fiber extraction in valuable old-growth stands. Subsequently, the Clearwater National Forest entered into a contractual agreement with The Wilderness Society, et. al., to protect these resources.

Everyone agrees, this area is very nice, as it is now.

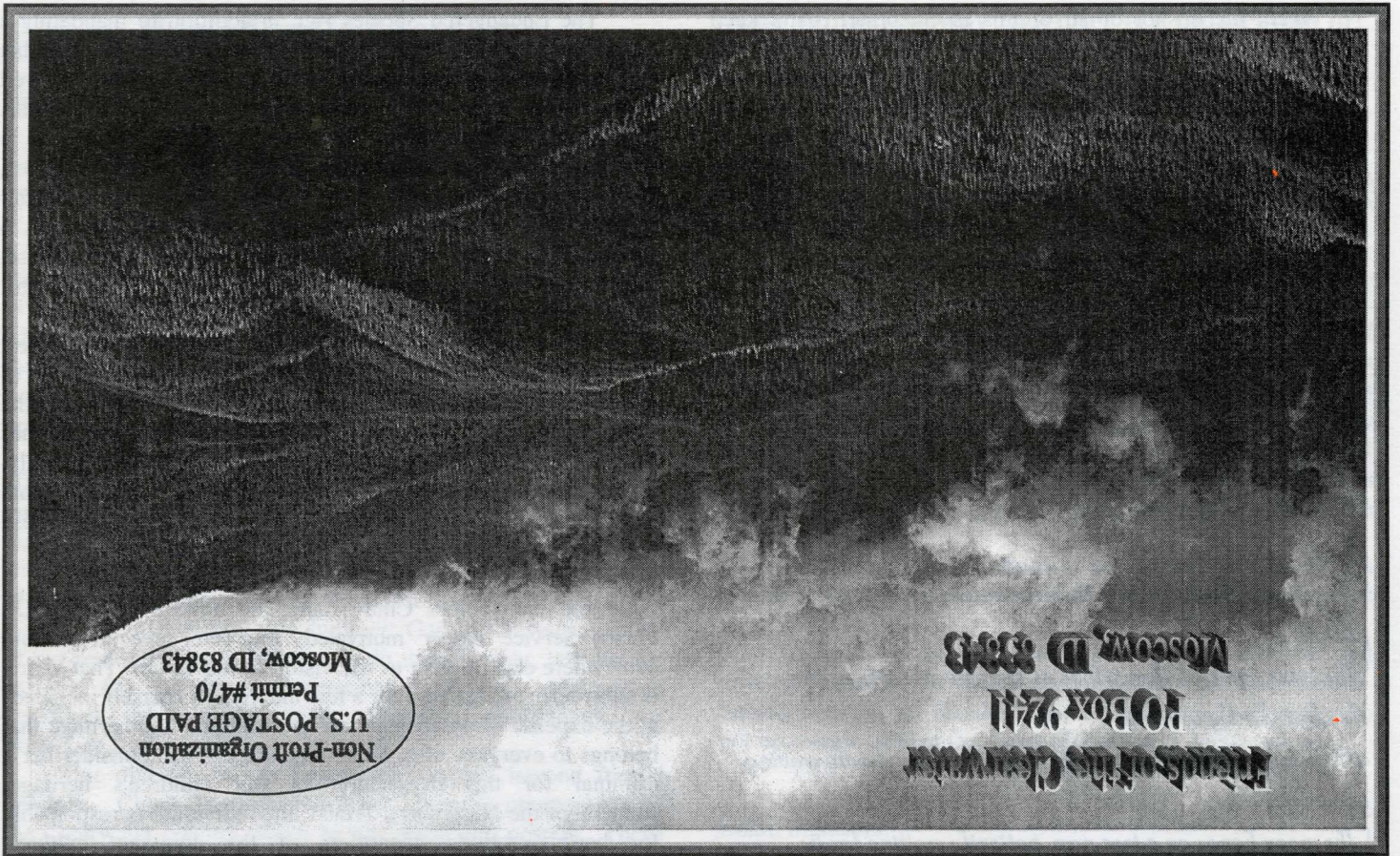
And then comes Cindy Lane, the upwardly mobile US Forest Service career motivated, mid-level executive from somewhere else, to give us the vision of our future. That vision is short-term capital gain for a few individuals (herself included) at the expense of an ancient and rich tradition and heritage that belongs to everyone else. Some day, society will consider her a criminal for this destruction of our children's heritage. Remember the Nuremberg Trials: the individual is responsible for her/his actions, regardless of the dominant culture's expectations.

Once before in the time when animals could talk and before humans were created, Coyote saved the world by killing the greedy Monster, who was consuming all the animals and plants. We can only pray that he will do it again.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and forever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Forest Watchers' Note: This fall, the Clearwater National Forest released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for an immense timber sale called North Lochsa Face. This timber sale would log over 8,000 acres of land and 75 million board-feet of trees-- almost as much volume as the Cove/Mallard sales-- in an area just north of the Lochsa River. The analysis area contains the only remaining roadless portion of the Lewis and Clark Trail and the Proposed Lewis and Clark Wilderness. Although the Forest Service cannot log within the Proposed Wilderness, it does plan to log right along its border -- just in time for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebrations. Much of the sale is in previously roaded and logged areas with damaged watersheds, but 2,250 acres of helicopter-logging is planned in a roadless drainage, Bimerick Creek. Several local groups including FOC are gearing up to fight this sale to the bitter end. This article refers to this North Lochsa Face FEIS.





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## In this issue of the Salmon-Selway Defender:

### ➤ Damn the Dams!

It's decision time for anadromous fish.

### ➤ The Forest Watcher:

Beetleburps and Suits.

### ➤ A Victory in the Cove? (Mallard)

Also a battle in the courts.

### ➤ And Much More . . .