



CLEARWATER DEFENDER

NEWS OF THE BIG WILD

A PUBLICATION OF
FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

ISSUED QUARTERLY
SUMMER 2019, NO.2

Passing of Larry “Lorenzo Trout” McLaud Guest Opinion by Greg Gollberg

Lorenzo Trout, or to some, Larry McLaud, was my friend. Anyone who knew Lorenzo knew there was nothing more important to him than wildlands. It was his calling to go to them, respect them, protect them, to love them. He knew the coyote nature of the word “preserve.” You can’t really preserve wildlands, because they are meant to change. So, if you love the wild, you try to keep the land safe from those who would abuse it. And that’s what Mr. Trout was all about.

He came to Idaho in the 1970s and graduated from University of Idaho with a MS in Agricultural Economics.

He had a scary- smart gift for higher mathematics. He went on to live in Tucson, Arizona, and then moved to Boise, Idaho where he worked in produce at the Boise Co-Op. I met him when he returned to Moscow, Idaho in the early ‘90s to run the local office of Idaho Conservation League.

Even though we both preferred solo hiking, Larry and I enjoyed each other’s company, and over the years we backpacked together in Clearwater Country, Oregon, Utah, and New Mexico. But one trip I especially remember was in the Boulder - White Clouds in southern Idaho. I don’t remember the year, but it was mid-spring and we had plans to go up the Castle Divide. We got to the trailhead and a hot spring before dark. Now, I knew Mr. T. was a minimalist, but he loved good food and red wine. After we set up camp, we went to the hot spring and out of his daypack he pulled a really fine and expensive bottle of Zinfandel. He told me he had another one for when we came out.

The next morning it was a bit of a grunt crossing over a ridge and down to Germania Creek. It was mid-afternoon when we reached the creek, and it was a torrent! With no way

to cross, we decided to spend the night, and then we decided to make a loop this side of the creek. Next day we crossed one ridge and got to the top of another and saw a third that shouldn’t have been there. We found ourselves briefly in that most wonderful of situations. We weren’t sure where we were. We were lost! And it brought us both to tears of laughter! It was at that moment that I realized what a dear friend I had found.

While Lorenzo lived in Moscow, my wife, Linda, and I would get together with him on Christmas Eve for a meal. I treasure those times – the three of us telling tales and laughing. We seldom saw him after he moved to LaGrande, Oregon, but then he moved to Silver City, New Mexico and got married! He was so happy. The last time I saw my friend, Mr.

Trout, was in 2017 when we met in Stanley, Idaho for the Great American Eclipse. We enjoyed more food, wine, hikes, hot springs, stories and memories. Thank you, my friend.

Editor’s Note: Larry worked for Friends of the Clearwater from 2002 - 2005. Greg Gollberg served on our Board of Directors from 2001 - 2007. He now resides in eastern Oregon. A longer version of this article can be found at www.friendsoftheclearwater.org. Thanks to Sioux Westervelt for her help in this tribute. This photo of Larry was taken on a trip to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness documenting ancient cedar groves, a trip I (Gary) was fortunate to share with Larry, Lynne Nelson and Nancy Mikleton. Whatever the reasons, I left a day earlier than the rest. That night, they were serenaded by wolves in the Wilderness. From the Clearwater to the Gila, I had the privilege of spending time with Lorenzo in some of the wildest country left in the US outside of Alaska. He was incredibly generous to FOC in his will. I miss him.



Larry and a very big cedar, Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, FOC file photo

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- PAGE 1 LARRY MCLAUD
- PAGE 3 SUMMER HIKES
- PAGE 5 DREDGING & SALMON
- PAGE 6 CLEARWATER ROUNDUP
- PAGE 7 FOIA CORNER
- PAGE 10 GRIZZLY RECOVERY
- PAGE 12 HARLEQUIN DUCK



Friends of the Clearwater *Keeping Idaho's Clearwater Basin Wild*

THE CLEARWATER DEFENDER
IS A PUBLICATION OF:

Friends of the Clearwater
P.O. Box 9241, Moscow, Idaho 83843
208-882-9755
foc@friendsoftheclearwater.org
friendsoftheclearwater.org

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

The *Clearwater Defender* welcomes artwork and articles pertaining to the protection of the "Big Wild." Articles and viewpoints in *The Defender* do not necessarily reflect the views of Friends of the Clearwater.

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

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FOC Photo

We had big turnouts for our grizzly bear recovery programs in April. Learn more on page 10.

WISH LIST

We are seeking the below items to assist us with field work and community outreach.

Digital Camera (New/Used/Refurbished)

GPS Navigation Unit (New/Used)

Binoculars (New/Used)

Pop-up Shelter/Canopy (New)

Portable Movie Screen (New)

Printed on 100% post-consumer, recycled paper made without harmful chlorine bleaching agents. Please recycle this newsletter!



Four, Three, Two, One Ashley Lipscomb

Membership and support are built upon strong, trusted relationships. I'm constantly reminded of this when members commit to host a fundraiser for a fourth time, when someone believes in us enough to offer a match grant for a third year in a row, when two people choose to protect the Clearwater beyond their lifetimes, and when we must collectively lace up our boots to protect one of the last wild places in the Lower 48. Thank you for supporting the wild work in so many ways!

The *Fourth Annual Wine and Wilderness* was another rousing success filled with the finest wines from the Paso Robles region in California. Over the years, Eric and Jan Jensen have fostered relationships with small-production vintners. Some are familiar with Idaho, and Eric does a fine job introducing the Wild Clearwater to those unfamiliar with the area. Many vintners kindly donated to help us protect the Clearwater Basin. We are grateful to Eric and Jan for all the thought, energy, and passion they put into making this event a success. Also, thanks to the Palouse Wine Tasters for lending us their beautiful glassware.

For a third year, an anonymous member will double any first-time donations, new memberships, and new grants up to \$10,000! This means \$20,000 could be added to Friends of the Clearwater's coffers at the end of the year. Plus, our supporter base grows! New members have already joined the ranks, and we still have many opportunities to stoke more fires. Consider passing this newsletter on to a like-minded individual and mentioning the membership match! Active members are our greatest ambassadors.

This past spring, two wild-loving individuals took to another plane. They left behind legacy gifts that will benefit Clearwater Country. Larry McLaud (see page 1) devoted his life to protecting wild places in Idaho, Oregon, and all the way down to New Mexico. We are proud to remember him as a friend and former Friends of the Clearwater staff member.

It's not known if Jennie Moehlmann ever visited North Central Idaho, but she had one degree of separation through a friend from this part of the world. Jennie was generous, curious, and held a deep love for animals, both domestic and wild. She also loved nature and science, two things that help us continue to do our work.

Finally, join us for one fun summer hiking series with a built-in purpose! We'll be venturing in beautiful landscapes steeped in ecological, cultural, and historical significance. These areas are also threatened by proposed deforestation and suction dredge mining. Plus, we will learn how to protect the places we hike in through the forest plan revision process!



SUMMER HIKING SERIES

June 22 - Eldorado Creek

Explore this roadless area on the Clearwater National Forest and learn about the Lolo Insect & Disease Timber Sale.

July 20 - Johns Creek

This creek is a tributary of the S. Fork Clearwater and a crucial anadromous stream. Learn how you can advocate for this area as Wild & Scenic River in the forest plan revision.

Both hikes leave from the southwest corner of the Moscow Safeway parking lot in Mocow at 8:30 am. Plan to carpool. Bring lots of water, food and dress for the elements.

SUMMER CAMPOUT

August 9 - 11

Wilderness Gateway Campground

Join FOC and Palouse - Sierra Club for a long-weekend of hiking, camping and relaxing in the Wilderness Gateway Campground adjacent to the Lochsa River. We will have a communal meal and music one of the nights. Outing is family-friendly.

RSVP TO ASHLEY FOR ALL EVENTS

208 - 882- 9755

ashley@friendsoftheclearwater.org

Baby Harlequin Duck, Ron Marquart Photo

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!
friendsoftheclearwater.org

My Friend Larry (1948 - 2019) Guest Opinion by Antone G. Holmquist

I met Larry McLaud in Moscow on Thanksgiving Day 1975. As would happen throughout the years, we looked at each other and broke out in laughter. Larry was a funny guy.

We became roommates that winter. Larry, a graduate of the University of Virginia and the Peace Corps, was getting his masters degree in Agricultural Economics. Larry and I were also roommates in Missoula, Montana and Flagstaff, Arizona, in later years, and we remained friends despite our wandering ways.

In the fall of 1978 Larry and I roamed the back roads of the Palouse to pick feral apples. We made juice, which we sold under the name “Ukaipa Brothers” (Firesign Theater). After a hike in the Bob Marshall Wilderness in 1982 we picked huckleberries and sold them to a restaurant in Missoula. I think we made at least \$2 per hour. I was fortunate to spend many nights in many western wilderness areas with Larry over the years - in mountains, canyons and on rivers.

Larry’s flat feet, lovingly called “pancakes,” kept him out of the military but did not keep him from his beloved “high country” hikes. He just wrapped those puppies up and laced his boots high! Larry also loved old trees and rivers. He was always after that one big trout. He decided he was a trout and went by the nom de plume “Lorenzo Trout” in later years.

A competitive equestrian as a boy, Larry also played basketball for sport (a love of mine as well), and his signature shot was a left-handed banker.

Larry died February 28 at the of age 70 doing what one would expect from a dedicated environmental activist. With his wife, Carol, and other members of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, he was monitoring a Forest Service cattle allotment near his home in Silver City, New Mexico when his heart gave out. Perhaps, he is now swimming with his finned brethren.

Larry worked for the Idaho Conservation League, Friends of the Clearwater, Hells Canyon Preservation Council and other environmental advocacy groups. He worked on farms and food co-ops, was a financial officer, a fire fighter and a fire lookout as well. Thinking of Larry still brings me a smile, and he will be missed dearly.

Editor’s Note: I heard dozens of funny stories about Larry from Antone G. Holmquist AKA Rufus, though Larry told as many about Rufus. Among his other talents, Larry spoke Pashto from time in the Peace Corps. What more can you say about a guy whose Peace Corps career ended early for the “crime” of printing an underground publication mocking the CIA and Peace Corps bureaucrats?



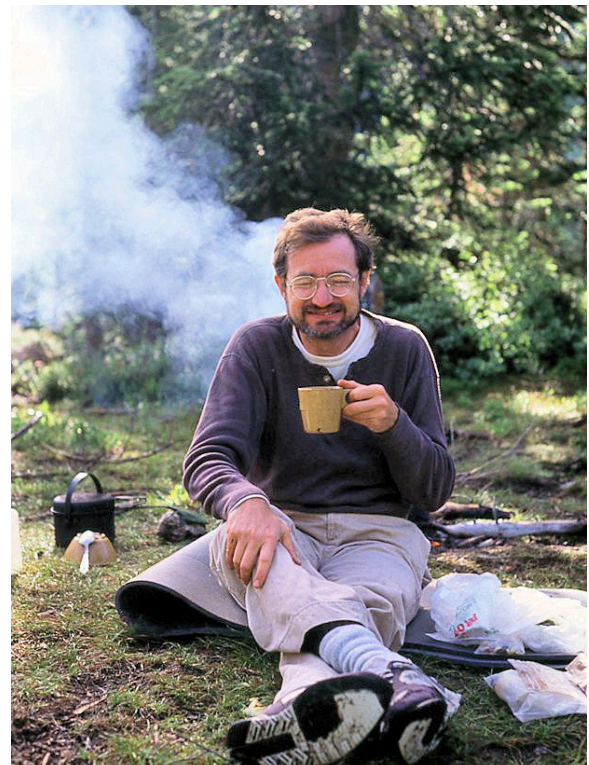
Antone Holmquist Photo

Larry (left) and the author in the wild sometime in 1992.



Antone Holmquist Photo

Larry (left) with his wife Carol and the author in 2012.



Antone Holmquist Photo

We hope Larry is still trying to catch that one big trout.

**“Dirty Gold”
Suction Dredge Mining in the Clearwater
Brett Haverstick**

Dredging is a form of in-stream placer mining that uses a raft or floating device equipped with a motorized pump to draw water and suck up riverbed sand and gravel before gold and other heavy metals are separated in a sluice box. The remaining materials, including mercury, are then discharged back into the river. The controversial activity has recently caused the state of California to issue an indefinite state-wide dredging moratorium, and Oregon has also recently banned dredging in all salmon-bearing streams. The state of Washington is currently developing regulations.

It is legal to dredge in certain places in Idaho, including portions of the Clearwater, when all permits are obtained and regulations are followed. Along with the required state permits, individuals are also obligated to get an approved Plan of Operations from the Forest Service and a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit pursuant to the Clean Water Act. As reported in past issues of *The Defender* (Fall 2018), however, citizen monitoring has documented a surge in illegal dredging activity on the S. Fork Clearwater, causing negative impacts to water quality, fish spawning beds and riparian areas.



FOC Photo

Lawless dredging on S. Fork Clearwater must stop.

Because of this lawless activity by some miners, along with our overall concern with in-stream placer mining impacts to aquatic resources, FOC recently teamed up with BluWater Solutions, LLC., Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment and others to produce a documentary titled, “Dirty Gold.” We invite you to watch this 13-minute short film of suction dredge mining on the S. Fork Clearwater and the attitudes of certain miners who refuse to comply with the law. You can view it at friendsoftheclearwater.org/suction-dredge-mining.

Thank you to the Indigenous Environmental Network and the Western Mining Action Network for providing the generous funding for this film project.

FOC will continue to track this important issue and inform our membership (you!) and the public at-large about dredging activities. The dredging season on the S. Fork is set for July 15 - August 15 of this year. Dredging in the N. Fork sub-basin occurs during the summer months, too.

Editor’s Note: Thanks to Pat Finnegan for his continued work on this issue.

**Idaho’s Salmon:
Congressman Mike Simpson weighs in
Brett Haverstick**

“We have been asking the ‘what if’ questions: If the dams were to come out, how would you address Lewiston; if the dams were to come out, how would you address the barging issue and the (concerns) grain growers have of getting wheat down the river: If the dams were to come out, how would you address the Washington farmers that have concerns they would have to lower all of their (irrigation) intake pipes and everything to farm? There are an awful lot of questions that have to be asked, because you need to address these if you are going to solve this problem.”

- Congressman Mike Simpson (R-ID), April 2019 at the “Energy, Salmon, Agriculture and Community: Can We Come Together?” conference in Boise, Idaho.

And with that Rep. Simspon threw his hat in the ring in the half-century long battle to save wild salmon and steelhead from going extinct due to our appetite for damming rivers under the pseudonym of “progress.” The Congressman’s heart-felt speech wasn’t the “shot heard ‘round the world,” nor was it an endorsement of breaching the four deadbeat lower Snake river dams, but it brought tears to many, and it caused a ripple effect across the political spectrum.

Upon hearing the news of Rep. Simpson’s words I said to myself, “Finally an elected official from Idaho who has the guts to speak truth to power and show valid concern for Idaho communities and Idaho’s salmon.” Congressman Simpson is currently serving his eleventh term in Idaho’s 2nd District.

What happens next is anyone’s guess, but the fish are telling us what needs to happen. The Idaho Fish & Game Commission just closed the spring Chinook fishing season in May for all rivers in the Clearwater Basin. And according to Fish & Game records not a single salmon was caught since fishing opened in April in the Clearwater/Salmon River Basins. Officials are not saying the closure is permanent, but the message is obvious: fish and dams cannot co-exist, and our \$16-billion investment in salmon recovery is a complete and utter failure. Salmon and steelhad are going the way of the dinosaurs. Free the Snake - Breach the Dams! Do it.

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5th Annual Free The Snake Flotilla
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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21
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Around the Clearwater Gary Macfarlane

Protecting Potential Wilderness and Wildlands (Roadless Areas)

FOC's roadless report (see our last newsletter) is raising eyebrows, and that is a good development. By way of background, we looked at roadless areas—generally areas that could be designated as wilderness—on national forests in Idaho, which fall under regulations developed by the Forest Service in 2008, and compared them to roadless areas on national forests in Montana, which fall under the older regulations developed by the Forest Service in 2001. The Regional Office of the Forest Service, which covers northern Idaho, Montana and the Dakotas, had our report on the agenda for a May 28 - 29 meeting of the Idaho Roadless Commission (this commission, though officially under the state, is a way to devolve national forest management away from the broader public interest). The Forest Service's regional coordinator for the roadless rule could find little fault with our main conclusions. The agency is apparently embarking on a process to see what kind of policy needs to be in place at the regional level regarding roadless areas, in part as a result of our report. Our report reached some important conclusions:

1- The 2008 regulations for roadless areas on national forests in Idaho is less protective than the 2001 regulations for national forest roadless areas in other states. This is particularly evident when looking at the amount of roadbuilding, supposedly temporary, in roadless areas in Idaho versus that of Montana.

2- That said, the amount of development (logging) in national forest roadless areas in Montana was surprising especially since the 2001 rule allows logging, but the exceptions are expected to be infrequent. Neither rule protects roadless areas.

3- The Forest Service, in the relatively recent past, has been inconsistent on whether or not logging destroys wilderness characteristics. Prior to the roadless regulations in 2001, the Forest Service was more consistent, concluding that logging does harm roadless and wilderness characteristics.

That last point is important. Since the end of World War II the Forest Service has wanted to log roadless wildlands. Prior to the regulations that ostensibly protect roadless areas, logging wildlands was a way to prevent wilderness designation because it degrades wilderness characteristics. The Forest Service recognized that logging constitutes degradation of roadless and wilderness characteristics. How-

ever, under the so-called roadless protection regulations (rules), the Forest Service, in certain circumstances, alleges logging can be seen as benign or even beneficial for wildlands. The agency's desire to log wildlands has not changed, nor have the results on the ground from that logging. Only the Forest Service's language has changed. The agency is being intellectually dishonest. If logging can occur in roadless wildlands, what would prevent it from occurring in the National Wilderness Preservation System?

Our report lays bare this dishonesty, and that was one of its goals. The report is receiving attention from the media and the Forest Service. This is a good sign. (NOTE: FOC's roadless report and other reports can be found on the front page of our new website at friendsoftheclearwater.org).

Clearwater Happenings

All the hoopla over the release of the Mueller Report, deserved or not, raises questions of how the country is evolving (more likely devolving) in terms of how words like "collusion" and "corruption" are defined, in both popular and legal contexts. Perhaps a 3rd "C" word, collaboration, could be brought into the mix.

Case in point: The Clearwater Basin Collaborative (CBC) a couple of years ago sought to intervene and support logging in a roadless area counter to a lawsuit filed by Friends of the Clearwater. FOC was seeking to protect the portion of the roadless area that was proposed for logging. (NOTE: this was reported in the Summer 2017 edition of *The Defender*). The timber company that bought the sale, Idaho Forest Group, is part of the CBC. Past *Defenders* have also discussed the problems with these collaborative groups that make de facto decisions before the public has had a chance to weigh in and before the environmental analysis is even started.

In other news, the Forest Service recently closed the Coolwater Ridge Road because of a road blowout (see photo next page). This road is above the confluence of the Selway and Lochsa Rivers. Repairs are expected to last until mid June. This is also the site of a small logging operation that affects a corner of roadless land (Rackliff - Gedney Roadless Area) adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The Forest Service claims that the logging operation didn't cause the blowout, but provided no evidence as to what caused it. Friends of the Clearwater sent a letter asking the Forest Service for documentation about what caused the landslide. Past landslides in the mid 90s and in 2017 were correlated and exacerbated by roads and logging.

Mining in the Clearwater is also a threat to fish habitat and water quality. Suction dredge mining remains a big problem on the South Fork Clearwater. Other places where this occurs includes Lolo Creek, Moose Creek, and Orogrande Creek. The latter two are in the North Fork drain-



Is it possible that the blowout on the Coolwater Ridge Road was caused by logging?

age. All have either important bull trout or steelhead habitat. Learn more about our new documentary on page 5.

There are many proposals by the Forest Service waiting in the wings. If you want to receive the latest action alerts, please sign up on the new FOC website or contact our office. If you want to get out this summer and help the Clearwater, also contact us. There are various opportunities for monitoring impacts of off-road vehicle abuse, proposed timber sales, and whether or not campgrounds have adequate information and bear proof dumpsters to prevent conflicts between humans and bears. These measures will be necessary if grizzlies are to recover in the wild Clearwater (see more page 10).

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Updates Katie Bilodeau

Little Boulder Project File

Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) requested the Little Boulder project file for the project of the same name on the Palouse Ranger District. We requested the project file because it contains far more information—everything the agency has directly or indirectly considered so far—than what the Forest Service summarizes and cites in the project's environmental impact statement (EIS). Moreover, the objection period on Little Boulder's final EIS closed before we received this project file. In our objection we emphasized the difficulty of commenting on this project without the public release of the project file by the Forest Service. Since our objection, Region 1 has reopened the objection period on the Little Boulder project until June 19, 2019. We are currently reviewing these documents and invite anyone interested in them to stop by our office, where they are on file.

Anatomy of a Collaborative Project: Summary & Update of Orogrande Timber Sale

FOC also made a FOIA request to learn more about the ongoing logging operations of the Orogrande Community Protection Project. The Forest Service's response gave us not only an idea of how the contract is unfolding on the ground, but provided a richer illustration on how collaborative groups work. We have the agency's response documents on file in our office as well as the public court documents referenced in this article for any interested (and perhaps enraged) member of the public to review.

A little over two years ago, Friends of the Clearwater sued the Forest Service on the Orogrande Community Protection Project for approving approximately 200 acres of regeneration logging, logging that cuts most trees to "regenerate" a tree crop, in the West Fork Crooked River Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) on the Nez Perce National Forest. FOC asserted that the Forest Service had violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in concluding that such intense logging would not only avoid harm, but would somehow benefit, roadless characteristics. FOC argued that such intense logging would eliminate the roadless characteristics of the portion of the IRA logged. During litigation, the Forest Service sold this logging contract. In April 2017 FOC was forced to move for a preliminary injunction to delay logging and roadbuilding into the roadless area because neither the Forest Service nor the contractor would wait for the case to be resolved. Friends of the Clearwater lost the motion for a preliminary injunction, and ultimately withdrew the case, so logging and roadbuilding immediately proceeded. But, FOC has been carefully tracking this project as it proceeds, both with on-the-ground monitoring and this FOIA request.

The Forest Service's FOIA response reemphasized one specific player, the Idaho Forest Group, LLC, who is a master puppeteer. When FOC's district court case was pending in 2016 - 2017, Bill Higgins of the Idaho Forest Group (IFG) represented IFG on the Clearwater Basin Collaborative and the Governor's Idaho Roadless Commission. The Clearwater Basin Collaborative and the Idaho Roadless Commission both stamped their approval upon the Orogrande project for regeneration logging in the West Fork Crooked River Roadless Area. The FOIA response disclosed that, in February 2017, the Forest Service sent a letter to the Idaho Forest Group, attention Bill Higgins, awarding the Orogrande Timber Sale (which was almost entirely acreage in the West Fork Crooked River roadless area) to IFG. So, a member of the Clearwater Basin Collaborative and the Governor's Idaho Roadless Commission, who encouraged the agency to proceed with this project over clear environmental concerns, reaped the profits from logging in a roadless area. In this same February 2017 letter, the Forest Service notified IFG that this timber sale was in litigation, providing both the name of the case and the case number.

The fruits of our FOIA request reinforce the symbiotic relationship between logging companies and Clearwater Basin Collaborative. Idaho Forest Group was the contractor who refused to postpone logging and roadbuilding operations, which forced Friends of the Clearwater to move for a preliminary injunction on April 26, 2017. The court expedited these proceedings and a hearing was set on May 18, 2017. On May 16, 2017, two days before the hearing and after all the parties to the case submitted their briefs, the Clearwater Basin Collaborative (CBC) filed a motion to submit an amicus curiae brief. While amicus curiae means “a friend of the court,” these informational briefs generally supports either the plaintiff’s position or the defendant’s. Here, the Clearwater Basin Collaborative supported the Forest Service’s position to proceed with roadless logging. The court denied admitting or considering CBC’s brief for the preliminary injunction decision. However, the contents, signatories, and legal representation involved make CBC’s motion noteworthy. First, the contractor, Bill Higgins of IFG, filed a declaration on behalf of the Clearwater Basin Collaborative, stating that logging in roadless was needed to mitigate for fire risk and suggested that any preliminary injunction would harm the contractor, the Idaho Forest Group. The conservation groups that joined IFG in signing onto the Clearwater Basin Collaborative’s proposed amicus brief included the Idaho Conservation League and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The Clearwater Basin Collaborative’s choice of attorney was even more curious.

CBC retained an attorney who is the staff attorney for the American Forest Resource Council. The American Forest Resource Council advocates for “active management” of forests (<http://amforest.org/about/>). While the occasional county government belongs to this group, the list of members on its website is overwhelmingly comprised of logging companies. There are only two members that overlap with the American Forest Resource Council and who signed onto the CBC’s proposed amicus brief in the Orogrande case; the first is Associated Logging Contractors. The second is Idaho Forest Group. So, Idaho Forest Group, LLC, as a member of the Clearwater Basin Collaborative, supported the Orogrande project, then received the logging contract, refused to wait for a court of law to decide the issue, and used a different group’s—a logging group’s—attorney to advocate against an injunction, not for its own business interest that admittedly would be harmed, but on behalf of the collaborative. I’ll table Orwellian commentary on a pro-logging attorney representing conservation groups. But, this appears to be the Clearwater Basin Collaborative at work, courtesy of logging-industry puppeteers.

The FOIA records show how this project has thus far proceeded. The Orogrande project is not complete. While IFG cut all of the logs, it has failed to obliterate all of the roads and the skid trails (trails made by dragging trees along the ground to where they are loaded and hauled away).



The top photo is a closer view of Orogrande timber sale. The bottom photo captures the larger-landscape with the Gospel-Hump Wilderness in the background. The “community” of Orogrande is the specks in the lower and bottom right corner. Above the dotted lines are what is/was roadless. Photos courtesy of Alpha 1 Photography.



Because that work was not complete, IFG and the Forest Service had to extend the contract from March 2019 until June 30, 2019, so IFG can comply with its remaining obligations. The Forest Service’s soils scientist approved skidding in areas but stated that erosion control measures would need to immediately follow. The records also suggest that IFG failed, at least once, to upkeep its contract term to conduct erosion work, prompting a notice of noncompliance from the Forest Service. Also, ironically, for a project that the Forest Service pitched as mitigating fire risk, fire mitigation that IFG emphasized the importance of to the court, the Forest Service had to waive the start of the Fire Precautionary Period at the beginning of the 2018 season for IFG so its operators could become “fully compliant” with the fire precautionary measures in the logging contract. These precautionary measures include tools to fight any fire inadvertently sparked from logging operations. Fire-risk mitigation indeed.

For those angered by timber companies realizing profits from sitting on collaboratives to approve the very projects they are later awarded, and using their own attorneys to gloss over their economic interests to paint a more palatable picture of collaboration to the public and to the

courts, you can act! Contact your congressional representative. Look at the conservation groups to which you belong and pressure them if they are on collaboratives or commissions that approve logging in roadless areas. Also, participate in the public comment period for these projects, and let the Forest Service know that there is a voice, your personal voice, that is excluded from collaboratives. Use your rights under the National Environmental Policy Act and demand the Forest Service consider your view. These forests are, after all, your forests.

Litigation Update

Friends of the Clearwater, Western Watersheds Project, the Center for Biological Diversity, WildEarth Guardians, and Predator Defense received a favorable opinion from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals this past April. These groups sued the federal agency Wildlife Services to stop the federal government's participation in killing gray wolves in Idaho because of insufficient environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act. A federal district judge dismissed this case on the basis of standing without addressing the merits of the groups' arguments. Standing is essentially the plaintiffs' injury and is a constitutional requirement to gain entry to the federal courthouse door; a party cannot sue on an action if it is not injured by that action. Wildlife Service's argument in the district court and on appeal was that if it were not killing wolves, the state would be killing equal numbers of wolves. The district court held it did not matter whether the Wildlife Services or Idaho were killing wolves because each would be identically effective. If efficacy is identical, and because Idaho may legally kill wolves without limit, the court reasoned that the plaintiffs (i.e. the environmental groups cited above) could not be injured if Wildlife Service was the entity killing wolves. On this basis, the district court held there was no standing and dismissed the case. The environmental groups appealed.

The Ninth Circuit reversed the district court's holding. The Ninth Circuit held that Wildlife Services has more expertise than the state of Idaho, so Wildlife Services could be more effective in killing wolves. Thus, if the killing entity were the federal government, more wolves would die and plaintiffs would be injured. So, with this holding, the Ninth Circuit reversed the dismissal of this case. The Ninth Circuit remanded the case back to the district court to rule on the merits of the claims because appellate courts cannot make initial rulings on the merits of a case. This case is returning to district court to consider whether Wildlife Services violated the National Environmental Policy Act.

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THANKS TO THE
GENEROUS FUNDING OF
LUSH CHARITY POT
WE HAVE CREATED
TWO NEW VIDEOS:

“The Wild Clearwater”
“Clearwater’s Carnivores”

friendsoftheclearwater.org/clearwater-videos

THANKS TO
ARTHUR UHLRICH
FOR VIDEO PRODUCTION.



FOC Photo

Thank you to
the all volunteers
and *The Fish Folks*
for supporting our
Renaissance Fair
crepes booth this year.

Grizzly Bear Recovery & Connectivity

Brett Haverstick

When news broke that a 2.5 year old male grizzly was observed in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana in October 2018, our staff was excited about the proximity of the bear to the Clearwater. The Bitterroot Recovery Area, which is mostly devoid of the great bear, is just a few miles to the west of where this grizzly was observed. Soon after the bear was captured, however, it was re-located north of Interstate 90 by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. It appeared that politics and government unpreparedness caused this. The take-away message was clear though: grizzly bears are dispersing and coming home to the Bitterroots sooner than later.

The vast Salmon - Selway Ecosystem of Central and North Central Idaho (which includes the Bitterroot Recovery Area) may offer the largest and best habitat for grizzly bears anywhere in the Lower 48. The 2.3 million acre Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness combined with the 1.3 million acre Selway - Bitterroot Wilderness (approximately 1.1 million acres are in Idaho) plus the millions of acres of undeveloped roadless wildlands that either buffer the wilderness areas or are fairly adjacent to them results in a vastly wild and intact landscape more than twice the size of Yellowstone National Park. That's a lot of room for bears!

The last confirmed grizzly bear in the Clearwater, of course, was the 6 year old male shot over bait in the Kelly Creek drainage on the Clearwater National Forest in 2007. DNA testing later revealed that the bear had dispersed from the Selkirk Mountains of North Idaho. It's also important to mention that the Western Environmental Law Center, representing Western Watersheds Project, WildEarth Guardians, and Wilderness Watch), is currently challenging the Forest Service and the Fish & Wildlife Service in federal court for their approval of black bear baiting on national forests in Idaho and Wyoming and its potential impacts to grizzly bear recovery. Bear baiting is banned in Montana, Washington and Oregon.

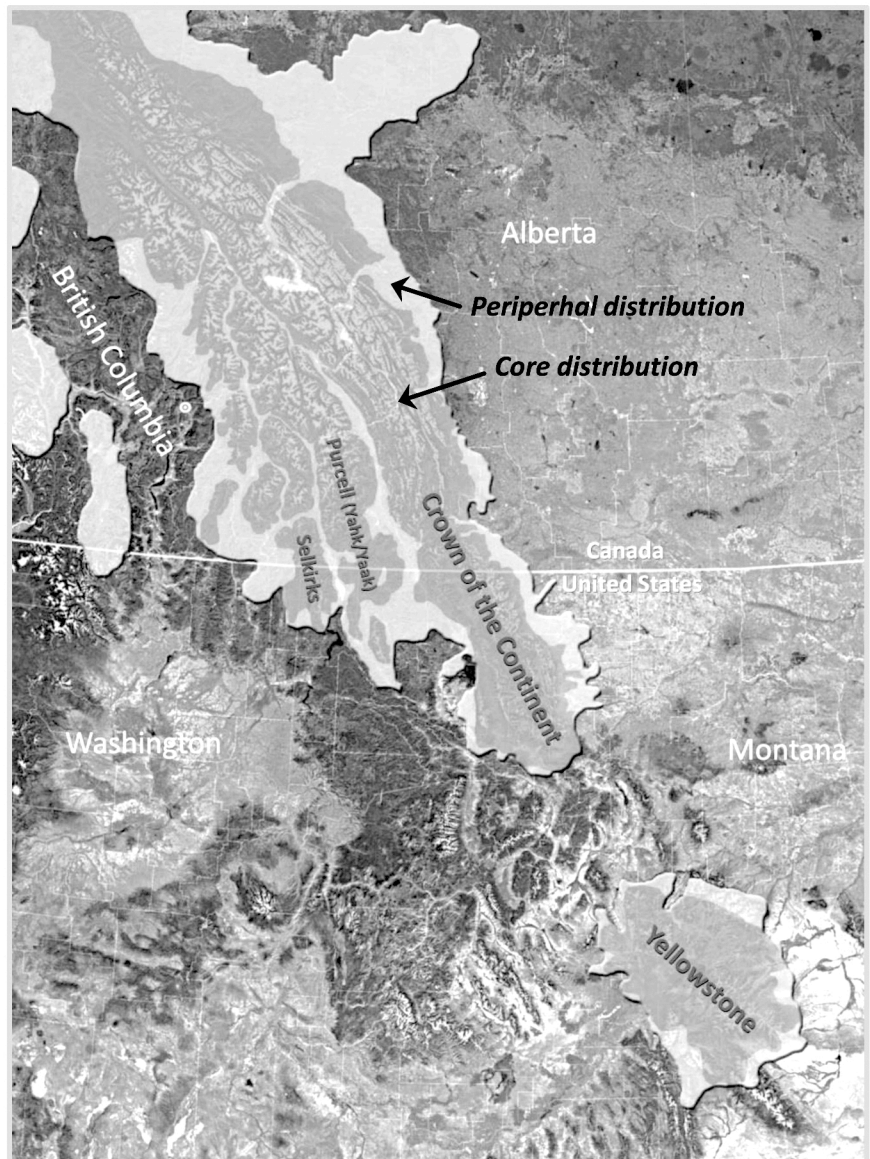
Grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroots has been mostly silent since the Bush Administration shelved efforts in 2000. The Fish & Wildlife Service have wrongfully neglected the Bitterroot Recovery Area during this time, with its most recent efforts focused

on stripping protections of the grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Fortunately, a federal court ruling in September 2018 stopped those premature efforts allowing the bears to remain protected under the Endangered Species Act. The Fish & Wildlife Service has also proposed stripping bears of federal protections in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem and possibly elsewhere. Stay tuned for that next shoe to drop.

While the government and mainstream media continue to roll out the "all is well with grizzly bears" narrative, the conservation community is focused on the genetic exchange, connectivity and recovery of grizzly bears throughout the West. The government has done a good job of deceiving the public with their feel-good rhetoric.

What We *Currently* Have in the Northern Rocky Mountains & Canada

Grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem completely isolated and no bears in the ample potential habitat of central Idaho



In an effort to educate the greater-Moscow community on the scientific status of grizzly recovery, FOC invited Dr. David Mattson and Louisa Willcox to town in April. They very generously agreed to deliver two programs. One was in a popular community center in town, and the second was at the University of Idaho. Both were well attended.

David is a well-accomplished researcher and scientist (he is also alumni of University Idaho), and Louisa is a long-time advocate and policy expert on large carnivores. She is also recipient of FOC's *Macfarlane Plank Award*. The two of them most recently founded *Grizzly Times*, a group which lends its voice to grizzly bears and their habitat.

David and Louisa's presentations delivered a few main points. Grizzly bear recovery will never occur in the

West unless we foster populations of several thousand individuals and allow grizzlies to recolonize suitable habitat (Bitterroot Recovery Area and elsewhere) and re-connect with isolated and vulnerable populations in the Northern Rockies. Besides fragmented bear populations in the Yellowstone area and Northern Continental Divide (Glacier National Park area), there are small but very important populations in the Selkirks and Cabinet and Yaak Mountains of North Idaho and western Montana. All of these are government grizzly bear recovery areas - so is the Bitterroot.

This vision for recovery can occur but only if we expand our minds and efforts to live peacefully with the bears. This takes us to the the second main point of their presentations. While there is plenty of room for more bears

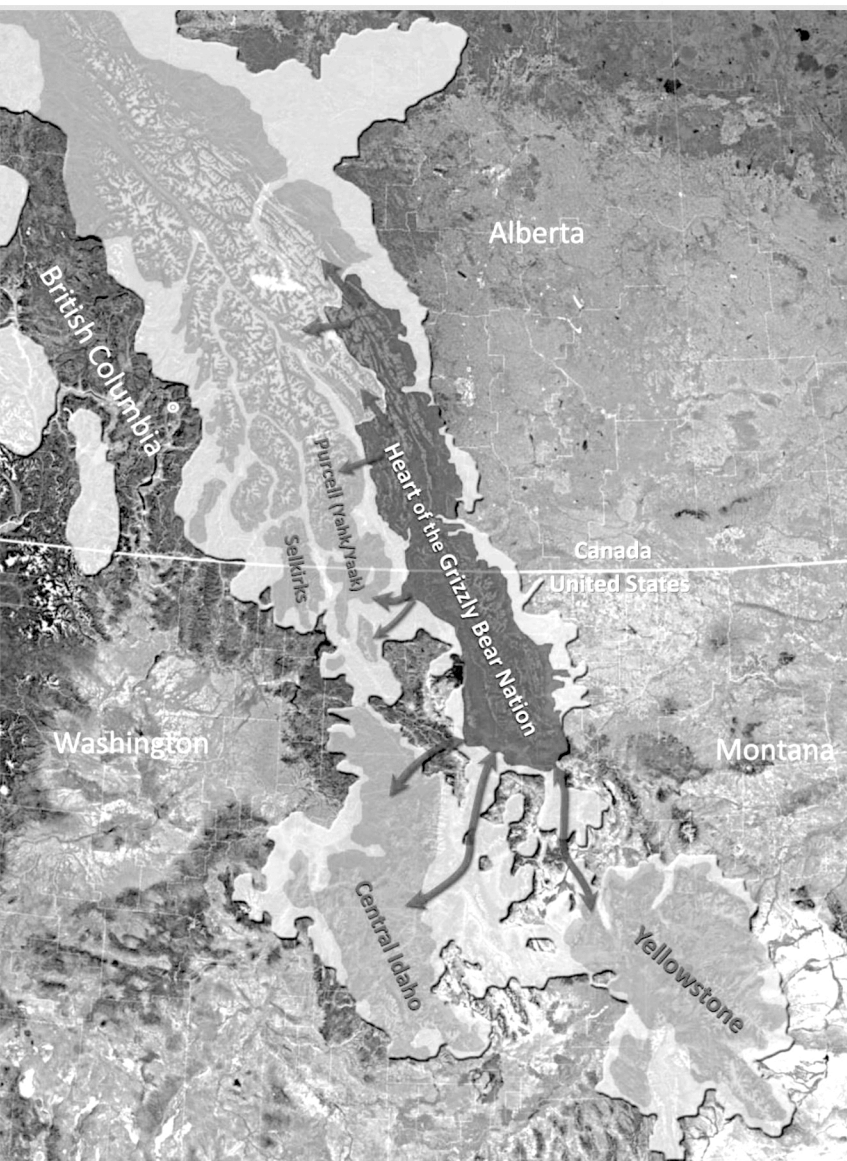
on the land, the real question becomes do we have room for more bears in our hearts? Much of bear recovery comes down to perception and attitude and whether or not our society can let go of its manifest destiny-driven quest to dominate and control every inch of wild nature. Will we share the landscape or will we continue to trap, anesthetize and re-locate, or possibly worse, kill every bear we deem to be a problem.

There was a sense of hope when Fish & Wildlife Service Grizzly Recovery Coordinator Hillary Cooley publicly stated that the 2.5 year old male grizzly that walked into the Bitterroot Valley last fall may be the "ice breaker" to build momentum towards recovery in the Bitterroots. "It's exciting. We want recovery in the Bitterroot. I wish that bear hadn't been trapped. It was on its way."

Editor's Note: We highly recommend that you visit the *Grizzly Times* website grizzlytimes.org. It may be the best source of information concerning the ecology and (mis)management of grizzlies in America. David and Louisa are close allies and we are grateful to work with them as we march toward natural recovery of bears in the Clearwater and beyond. Speaking of this neck of the woods, FOC is working this summer to complete its basin-wide survey of preparedness by the Forest Service concerning food storage at campgrounds and other places. We have a preliminary report that is completed and hope to have a more comprehensive one out later this year. In the meantime, if you are in the backcountry this summer keep an eye open for grizzly bear signs. It is wise to hike with bear bells and bear spray, along with other people if you prefer. Making noise, keeping a clean camp, and being bear-aware goes a long way in keeping the bear and yourself safe. Happy trails!

What We *Could* Have in the Northern Rocky Mountains & Canada

Grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem contiguous with other bear populations through central Idaho to Canada and the Yukon





Rare Harlequin Duck on the Lochsa River, Matthew Workman Photo.

**Friends of the Clearwater
P.O. Box 9241
Moscow, Idaho 83843**

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