

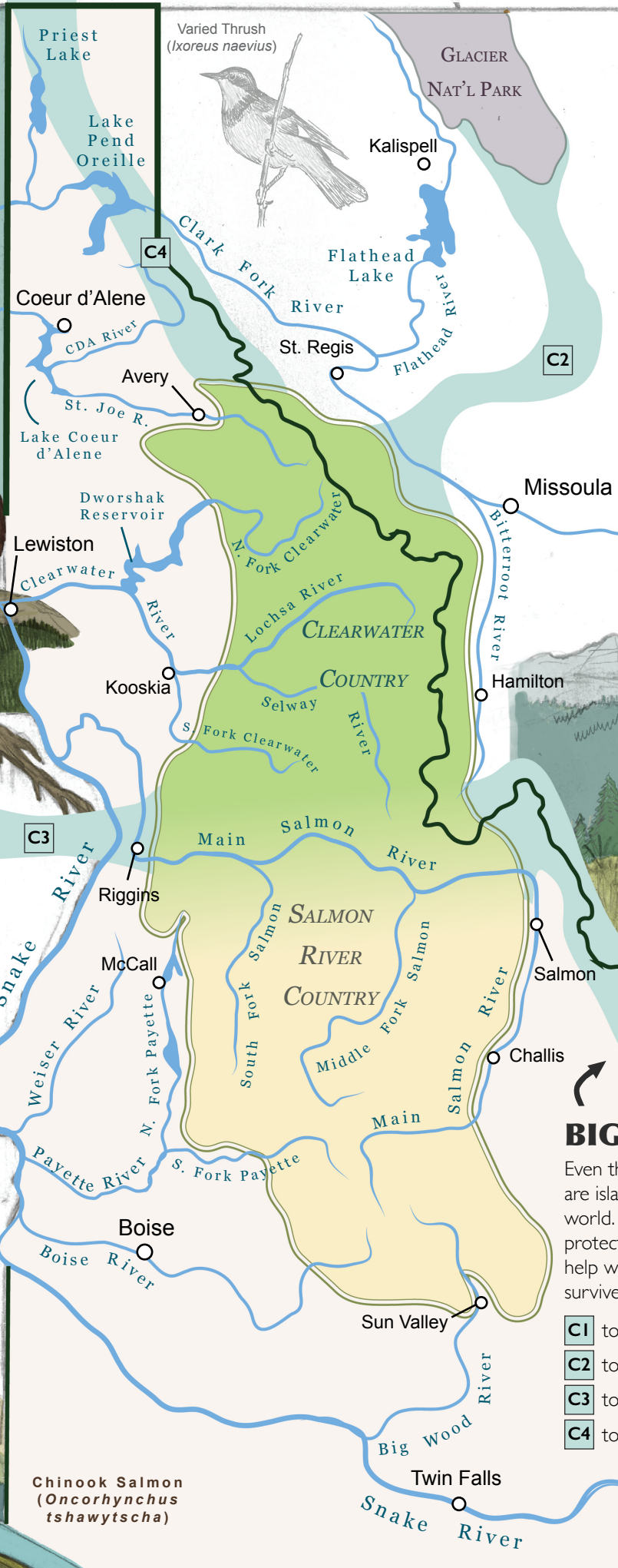
# the BIG WILD

Deep in the heart of Idaho lies the **Big Wild**. At 10 million acres, this is the largest contiguous wild area in the Lower 48 states. This behemoth landscape is a tapestry of ancient forests, rushing rivers, and towering peaks.

The Big Wild is two adjacent wild regions. The north half, Clearwater Country, is a land of moist cedar-fir forests and low elevation mountains. This is where Friends of the Clearwater focuses its efforts. The southern Salmon River Country is a higher, drier region of pine savannahs and glacier-carved peaks.

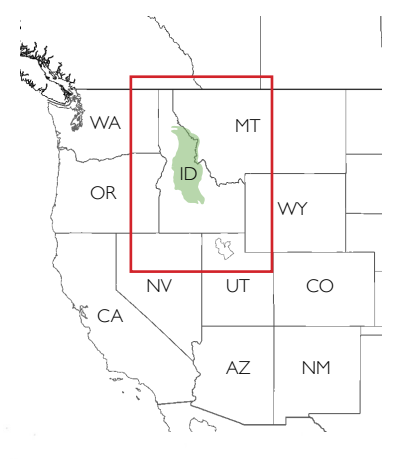
The boundaries of the Big Wild and adjacent corridors are extrapolated from the visionary Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA). **We aim to secure the public lands of the Big Wild for all people to enjoy.**

Western Red Cedar Tree (*Thuja plicata*)



### LEGEND

- The Big Wild
- Clearwater Country
- Salmon River Country
- Wildlife Corridors
- National Parks
- Major Lakes
- Major Rivers

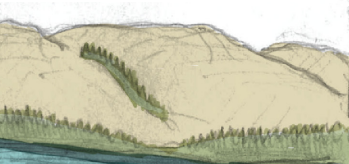
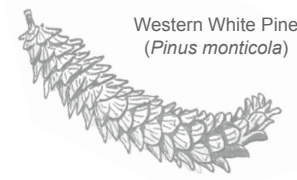


## BIG TREES

The Clearwater River basin contains some of the largest tracts of old-growth forest in the United States.

Mature and old forests are critical as carbon sinks, storing CO<sub>2</sub> in trees, living and dead, as well as soils, for hundreds of years.

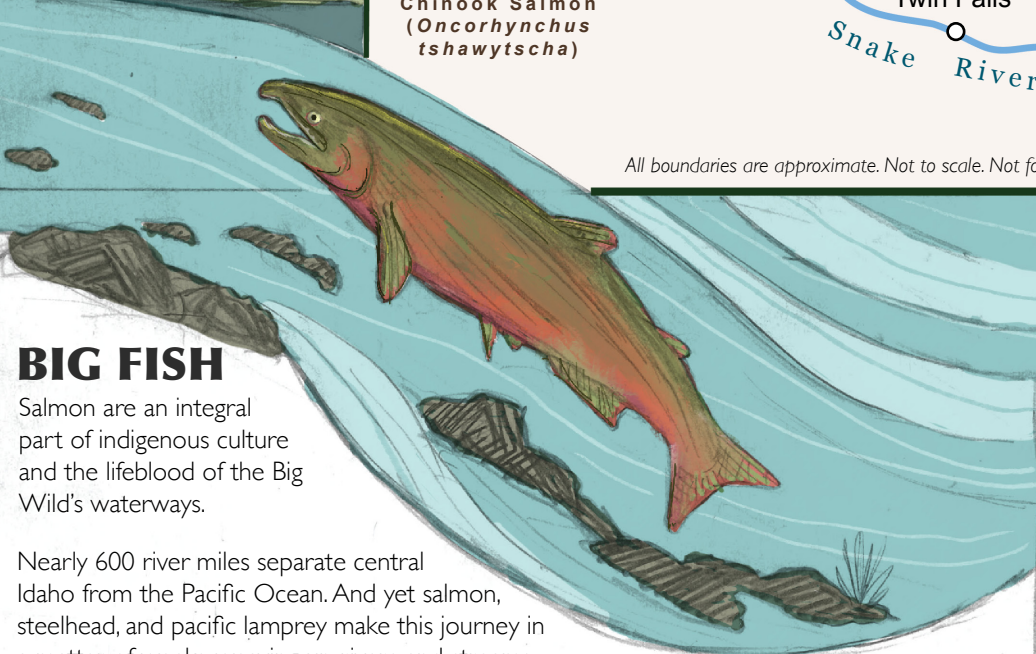
Coastal species like western red cedar, pacific yew, and maidenhair fern thrive in these inland rainforests.



## BIG FISH

Salmon are an integral part of indigenous culture and the lifeblood of the Big Wild's waterways.

Nearly 600 river miles separate central Idaho from the Pacific Ocean. And yet salmon, steelhead, and pacific lamprey make this journey in a matter of weeks, weaving up rivers and streams to the headwaters they were born in.



Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

## BIG MAMMALS

The Big Wild is home to more species of native carnivores than anywhere in North America. Grizzly bears, wolves, mountain lions, and wolverines can all be found here, owing to the region's abundance of prey, diversity of habitat, and extreme wildness.



Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*)

## BIG CONNECTIONS

Even the largest wild areas are islands in a developed world. Linking wild areas with protected corridors would help wildlife migrate and survive climate change.

- C1 to Greater Yellowstone
- C2 to Glacier/Northern Continental Divide
- C3 to Hells Canyon/Blue Mountains
- C4 to Selkirks/Cabinet/Yaak



## BIG GOALS

Despite containing designated wildernesses, wild and scenic rivers, and other land use designations, the Big Wild is far from safe. Logging, roadbuilding, damaging wildlife policy, agency manipulation of Wilderness, and climate change pose existential threats.

**We aim to secure "all the parts" of the largest wild place in the Lower 48 States.**

All boundaries are approximate. Not to scale. Not for navigational use. Copyright Friends of the Clearwater 2026 ©



Friends of the Clearwater has been protecting public wildlands, wildlife, and waterways of north-central Idaho since 1987. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Moscow, Idaho.



Check out our website for more information!