

Clearwater Defender

News of the Big Wild

Friends of the Clearwater

Summer 2001, Vol. 1 No. 3

Of Ungulates and Ugly Land Grabs

By Gary Macfarlane

Ted Trueblood, the late Idaho conservationist and sportsman, was a leading figure in generating opposition to the scheme to steal public lands in the West and give them to the states, and eventually private corporations, for exploitation. Twenty years ago he galvanized citizens in Idaho against what was called the Sagebrush Rebellion, a would-be land grab of epic proportions.

Bad ideas never seem to die. The *newest* incarnation of the public land grab is the State of Idaho's Federal Lands Task Force. This project began with anti-conservation elements of the Idaho state legislature as an updated version of the old Sagebrush Rebellion. It proposes five pilot projects, two of which include most of the Clearwater, St. Joe and Nez Perce National Forests. The pilot project for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests would increase logging many times and would weaken existing public involvement and environmental laws. Citizens would finance these destructive projects while having little say in how the land is treated. Decision-making authority would be turned over to "special" committees appointed by the legislature. The Forest Service would be forced to implement the plans of the committee.

(Continued on page four)

Nez Perce National Forest Officials Go Saw Crazy

The Nez Perce National Forest office has released two big draft environmental impact statements for public comment, **one that would invade a roadless area**. These two bad ideas are indicative of the new euphemism, "ecosystem management" which seems even more massive than the old-style timber sales of years past. Now, the forest service tries to justify these destructive plans by also proposing to close roads and do watershed restoration in the area, the irrational "robbing Peter to pay Paul" mentality. It's like a doctor telling an injured patient, "I'll work to heal your existing wounds but first I'll beat you up." The EISs are hastily prepared with too little time for proper evaluation. **These two projects are explained on page three, before you do anything else please read them and write! Write!**

Write those letters!

PLEASE ALSO SEE THE INSERT IN THIS NEWSLETTER FROM BIG WILD ADVOCATES THAT CONTAINS VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE KINDS OF PROPOSALS (insert pages 7 and 8 in particular).



Earlier this year, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game proposed a sham "study" for federal trappers to kill some 75 bears and 10 cougars in an area north of the Lochsa River and south of the Nez Perce Trail. This would be in addition to any bears and cougars killed by those with hunting licenses. The reason for this crazy proposal was to increase survival of elk calves. Wildlife biologists like University of Idaho's Jim Peek have been critical of such a program noting that the cyclical nature of elk herd population reflects that of large, hot wildfires. In other words, elk in the upper Clearwater (likely bears as well) are on a natural downswing and will increase only when a large, hot fire moves through the area.

Friends of the Clearwater joined with Predator Conservation Alliance and other conservation organizations to oppose this proposal. During the comment period citizens spoke out overwhelmingly against this project. Everyone from wildlife watchers to elk hunters voiced opposition, noting that the proposal, lacks an understanding of predator/prey cycles and gives the Fish and Game's public image a black eye.

Data from Idaho Fish and Game's black bear studies show female bears in this area to generally be lighter than elsewhere in the state. If anything, bears are also affected by vegetation changes in the Clearwater and their demographics reflect that fact. If predation is higher than expected it is because the elk are not as fit., Predators are the agents of population change, not the cause.

As a result of public input, the proposal was stopped. Thanks to all those Friends of the Clearwater members and supporters who commented on this proposal. After dropping the proposal, the Idaho Fish and Game Department decided to encourage more bear and cougar hunters to hunt in the upper Lochsa. It seems the agency still has a long way to go before understanding the difference between wildlife and game farms.

Greetings Friends,

As with every change of the season, we embark on new projects. For some this means that it is time to till the soil and for others they stress about not being organized enough for their wedding. Whatever one's project is, they cannot deny the drastic changes a new season brings into their life. The flowers are blooming, the trees are finally green again and we begin to think about how nice it was last winter.

As you will read in this issue of Clearwater Defender, Friends of the Clearwater has an array of projects starting this summer. Josh Burnim leaves in May for his five-month adventure, where he will hike from southern Idaho in the Sawtooth Mountains and end in Canada in the Selkirks. Ashley Martens discusses the cedar project she has created. This initiative will educate people about cedar groves in Idaho and have people in the field locating groves and noting their characteristics. These are examples of just a couple of great things that are happening at FOC.

Unfortunately these kinds of projects that are exciting and fun are not the only things we do. This summer will be difficult as we work to combat the Bush administration. He has displayed to us already his plans of un-wilding America. Whether it be accomplished by logging, damming, fire-suppressing or drilling, we have our work cut out for us. And, we are challenged to continue our work of protecting what is left of the Big Wild.

FOC is ready for the challenge. Gary Macfarlane has become the Forest Watch Director and will be working full time in the office. Gary's expertise and experience monitoring timber sales and coordinating forest watch work will be highly beneficial for our office. He will also be a community organizer this summer until the fall when a new staff organizer is hired. Kristin is contracted through the summer to continue her forest watch work from the east until she starts graduate school in Vermont this autumn. Congratulations Kristin!

Enjoy this new season of adventure and warmth. And remember, get outside and walk in the forest and see the beauty of northern Idaho.

Emily Loeb

Correction

In the last issue of the Defender an Idaho Fish and Game Commissioner, Alex Irby, was inadvertently credited with a statement about Clearwater fires that should have been credited to the Idaho Fish and Game Director, Rod Sando.

Editors beg:

In order to make this newsletter look better we need art submissions from our creative readers. Please send your drawings, poetry, cartoons, or whatever you create.

The Clearwater Defender is a publication of:

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Friends of the Clearwater is devoted to the protection of Idaho's Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem, the largest relatively intact wild area left in the lower 48 states. This undiscovered gem on America's public lands contains many unprotected roadless areas and provides crucial habitat for countless species. Friends of the Clearwater helps defend this ecosystem through an aggressive Forest Watch program and 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 Clearwater Defender welcomes artwork and articles pertaining to the protection of the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem. Articles in the Clearwater Defender do not necessarily reflect the views of Friends of the Clearwater.

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Back Cover Photo of Graves Peak

by Chuck Pezeshki

Friends of the Clearwater wishes to thank: the Latah Community Foundation, the Fund for Wild Nature, the Natural Trails and Waters Coalition (housed in the Wildlands CPR office), and Edith Trembath for their generous grants for our programs

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Clean Slate Timber Sale: A Dirty Deal

This massive logging project is in Slate Creek, about 25 miles northeast of Riggins. Slate Creek flows into the Salmon River from the east and includes a portion of the North Fork Slate Creek roadless area. This region varies greatly in elevation, from ponderosa pine to spruce-fir, and contains important salmon and steelhead habitat.

Of the six alternatives analyzed, two would log over 40 million board feet and the proposed action (not necessarily the preferred) would log over 30 million board feet. By contrast, the destructive Cove/Mallard timber sales, which were eventually stopped by citizen outrage, proposed to log 82 million board feet in an area about four times as large as Clean Slate.

The proposed roadless logging doesn't even seem to under an overly loose interpretation of the exceptions to logging in the roadless policy, (NOTE: see related story on the status of the roadless policy). These exceptions were expected to be few and in limited areas, not across thousands of acres in one roadless area, as the most destructive alternatives propose. The forest service is trying to shove a whale through a needle's eye with its interpretation of the policy. It makes one ask was forest service really honest with the public about wanting to protect roadless areas?

Furthermore, the agency also proposes to log, euphemistically called thinning, in old growth reserves. This would require a change to the forest plan that prohibits that activity. This is old-growth destruction and harms the ecosystem.

Points to Consider:

- 1- There should be a new draft EIS issued with better, more readable maps, more public involvement, and no pre-determined decision.
- 2- No logging should occur in roadless areas. This violates the letter and spirit of the recently adopted Roadless Conservation Policy (even if the policy is stopped by the courts, the forest service has falsely claimed it has no plans to log in roadless areas in this region). The document does not show how logging would help roadless values. The limited exceptions to logging in the Roadless Conservation Policy do not apply.
- 3- No logging/thinning should occur in old growth. There is no scientific basis for logging or thinning these areas. In fact, the forest plan set aside few old-growth areas to prevent them from being logged.
- 4- Alternative 2 is the best of the six alternatives analyzed. It doesn't log, proposes road closures to reduce erosion, but it does propose prescribed fires during the wrong season for the area. Alternative 2 would be much better if natural fires were allowed to be part of the system and human ignited burns were proposed during the time fires naturally burn in the area.

Send Comments by JUNE 21 To:

Bill Shields

Project Leader

Salmon River Ranger District

HC 01 Box 70

White Bird, ID 83544

or email at: mdb_r1_nezperce_comments@fs.fed.us (note: keep in lower case and r1 is the letter r and the numeral 1) Be sure to put Clean Slate in the subject line for email submissions.

Meadow Face: Same Old Saw

This large timber sale proposes to log over 22 million board feet on nearly 4,000 acres, build nearly 13 miles of "temporary roads," and do some restoration work. It is in an area that has been seriously abused in the past. Meadow Creek flows from the north into the South Fork of the Clearwater along Highway 14, a few miles east of Grangeville and has a range of elevation and habitat types.

Necessary restoration activities must not be held hostage to road building, logging and development. It is ridiculous to build roads, even temporary ones, in areas where there are already too many roads.

Some of the major problems with this proposal include logging in old growth and double counting of restoration projects like the Meadow Creek slide stabilization. This latter project should have already been done, as it was mitigation for the disastrous Otter-Wing and Mackey Day timber sales.

Also, no real restoration alternative was included; all involve logging and/or road building that produce more sediment into the already dirty South Fork Clearwater. This may have occurred since a group got together to make recommendations to the forest service and the decision has already been made

Some Points to Consider:

- 1- There should be a new draft EIS issued with better, more readable maps, more public involvement, no pre-determined decision, and a real restoration alternative which does not include road building or logging.
- 2- No old-growth logging/thinning should occur.
- 3- An honest assessment of watershed restoration activities should occur.

Send Comments by JUNE 19 To:

Darcy Pederson

District Ranger

Route 2 Box 465

Grangeville, ID 83530

or email at: mdb_r1_nezperce_comments@fs.fed.us (note: keep in lower case and r1 is the letter r and the numeral 1) Be sure to put Meadow Face in the subject line for email submissions.



Of Ungulates and Ugly Land Grabs

By Gary Macfarlane (Continued from page one)

This proposal went through a very brief and poorly publicized comment period, proving the governor and other state officials hypocrites when they complain about the Forest Service's roadless policy, which had a lengthy and involved public comment process.

Such a crazy proposal would take approval by Congress. Given Senator Craig's hostility toward wildlife and wildlands, we should expect an attempt to pass such a proposal through a rider. Stay tuned for more information if this possibility emerges.

The plot takes an interesting twist as it is related to the logging for elk sham (as discussed in past newsletters, it really would not do much for elk). A few years ago *this* bad idea, called the Clearwater Basin Elk Habitat Initiative or Elk-Initiative, was launched by state and federal agencies, private organizations, and the Clearwater Elk Recovery Team (CERT), a newly formed private group.

Guess what, the Clearwater Elk Recovery Team *also* proposed the Federal Lands Task Force pilot project which would drastically increase logging on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. In fact, the land grab pilot project encompasses the *same area* as the elk initiative and has the *same logging for elk theme* except that it is even worse. Not surprisingly, there has been confusion of these two bad ideas.

Friends of the Clearwater drafted a letter, with several other conservation and sporting groups signing on (Idaho Sporting Congress, Ecology Center, Idaho Conservation League, American Wildlands, American Lands, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, the Lands Council, the Wilderness Society, the Palouse Group Sierra Club, Clearwater Biodiversity Project), and we sent it to the Regional Forester, Dale Bosworth, in Missoula. The letter requested a meeting to discuss the Elk Initiative. (NOTE: Dale Bosworth was recently appointed to be Chief of the US Forest Service replacing Mike Dombeck).

Lauren Buckley (the Ecology Center), Gary Macfarlane (Friends of the Clearwater), and Larry McLaud (Idaho Conservation League) met with the regional forester and his staff. Some key themes were discussed in the meeting.

We pointed out that the Clearwater Elk Recovery Team was double-dealing, going behind the backs of the others involved in the Elk Initiative, and was using the proposal for state management of national forests as a club against the Forest Service. If they don't get what they want—which is more logging under the false guise of improving elk habitat—they threaten

to push the other Clearwater proposal, which includes massive logging.

We gave four additional reasons the Elk Initiative is a bad idea.

First, it began with a predetermined assumption that the Clearwater basin needs more elk on certain portions the national forests, regardless of what that may mean for the health of the land (NOTE: Elk populations are high in some portions of the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests).

Second, the Elk Initiative is not science driven but is single species management that fails to recognize the cyclical relationship between large, hot natural fires and elk abundance in the region. Some biologists have criticized the lack of sound science. (See sidebar on predators).

Third, we emphasized there already exists a more egalitarian method of public involvement which is the regular public involvement

process. Conservationists have been skeptical of these *new* processes because they try to avoid complying with environmental laws by getting everybody to agree that noncompliance is okay. A far better approach is to follow the laws, both letter and spirit, in the first place

Finally, the very first project selected for the Elk Initiative would occur on a national forest roadless area. Logging or thinning roadless areas, especially when the science indicates there is much better elk habitat potential on private and state lands in the basin, tells the conservation community that public agencies really don't want our input, just our acquiescence.

It also sends the message that the Forest Service's commitment to roadless areas and its own roadless policy, which involved years of work and the most massive public involvement ever by an administrative action, is not serious.

The regional forester said he didn't support the State of Idaho's land grab but he still wanted to go forth with the Elk Initiative. When we asked why should the forest service still be involved in the Elk Initiative given the dishonest behavior of CERT members and their duplicity and breach of there was no answer. The regional forester also was concerned that roadless areas were the first to be targeted.

Back to Ted Trueblood. We all need to honor his vision and legacy. There is no better way to do that than to end these silly schemes that try to turn wildlife into ranch animals, and fight to allow elk to be wild elk, bears to be wild bears, and forests to be wild forests. Then maybe all of us—be we hunters, fishers, seekers, observers, dancers, or travelers—can rediscover the wild of the land and the wild within ourselves.

In a letter to the regional forester we pointed out that the Clearwater Elk Recovery Team was double-dealing, going behind the backs of the others involved in the Elk Initiative, and was using the proposal for state management of national forests as a club against the Forest Service. If they don't get what they want—which is more logging under the false guise of improving elk habitat—they threaten to push the other Clearwater proposal, which includes massive logging.

OR

...the very first project selected for the Elk Initiative would occur on a national forest roadless area. Logging or thinning roadless areas, especially when the science indicates there is much better elk habitat potential on private and state lands in the basin, tells the conservation community that public agencies really don't want our input, just our acquiescence.

Roadless Protection in Peril

By Kristin Ruether

The Bush administration, with the assistance of an Idaho federal court, is attempting to unravel the roadless protection rule. Several months of jousting have resulted in a court injunction barring the implementation of the roadless rule. This occurred in large part because the Bush administration failed to defend the roadless rule in court.

The roadless area conservation rule was finalized in early January. It would ostensibly stop road-building and logging on 58.5 million acres of national forest land. The process involved more than 600 public meetings and drew a record-setting 1.6 million public comments (overwhelmingly positive).

Upon entering office, "President" Bush ordered that all recent Clinton administration rules, including the roadless rule, be suspended for review.

In February, the administration delayed the scheduled implementation of the roadless rule from March until May. On March 30, in response to a lawsuit filed by Boise Cascade and the State of Idaho, the Justice Department "committed to postponing" implementation of the policy.

Several lawsuits have been filed against the roadless rule. In Idaho, the State of Idaho, Boise Cascade, Boise County, the Kootenai tribe, and others have sued. Earthjustice is intervening on behalf of several environmental groups. The case was assigned to the notoriously anti-environmental Judge Edward Lodge.

This court case had a hearing on March 30. The plaintiffs asked Judge Lodge for a preliminary injunction to halt implementation of the roadless rule. The Justice Department lawyers stated they needed until May to complete their review of the roadless rule.

On May 4, the Department of Agriculture announced that it would implement the roadless policy effective May 12. However, it also announced a new rulemaking process beginning in June to "revisit" the plan. The proposed amendments would address local fire and disease management issues, and would likely throw more control back to the local level (a recipe for roadless development).

Several days later, Judge Lodge issued a preliminary injunction on the roadless rule. This prevents the prohibitions on road building and logging in the roadless rule from taking effect until he makes a final decision on the case (probably months away).

Environmental interveners in the case immediately announced their intention to appeal. They have largely provided the defense in the case, since the Bush team has made very little effort to defend the legal merits of the roadless rule.

The end result of all of this is that roadless areas remain unprotected and vulnerable to exploitation. Former Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck summarized it well in his resignation letter to Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman. He urged her to keep the roadless rule in place, pleading, "The long-term public interest in conserving these areas should prevail over short-term private interests."

To take action, contact new Chief Dale Bosworth at 202/205-1661 or fax 205-1765 and urge that the Forest Service place an immediate moratorium on all road construction and logging projects in roadless areas.

Thanks to Earthjustice (www.earthjustice.org) for information on this mess (and for defending the roadless rule).



Tracks by Peggy Sue McRae

The Ancient Cedars Protection Project

By Ashley Martens

Dragging my fingers across vertical-stripped gray bark, I walk straight to my favorite tree. I call this ancient western redcedar and others of her awe-inspiring magnitude "Grandmother Trees." Standing just under 200 feet, it takes seven small women with their arms outstretched, fingertip-to-fingertip, to completely encircle her broad, buttressed trunk. Close to 1000 years she has been standing her ground here on Moscow Mountain in Northern Idaho. One of the lucky ones, she avoided the ax that butchered many of her kin.

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Ancient western redcedar groves are rare. The giants of these groves grow larger than 5 feet in diameter, live over 1000 years, and are the oldest trees in the Rocky Mountains (Parker, 1979, p1). Two female botanists, Parker and Lichthardt, call these amazingly old trees that survived floods, fires, and humans "remnant" trees (Parker, 1979; Lichthardt, 1999). Ancient forests like these took hundreds to thousands of years to grow, and now 90% of them have been logged (Berle, 1994 p6).

The northern goshawk, pine marten, fisher, and red-backed vole dwell in damp old-growth cedar forests (Davis, telephone interview, 10/13/00). We find tiny brown creepers and townsend's warblers in higher numbers in old-growth, too. White-tailed deer, elk, and moose also commonly use old-growth cedar bottomlands in winter where they find shelter from harsh storms, less snow, and more forage (Davis, 10/13/00). Protecting these popular ungulates requires that their winter habitats be protected, too. This may come as a surprise to elk-lovers who think clearcuts disguised as "elk mitigation" efforts are the answer. According to Davis, it's simple: "if you maintain habitat, you maintain population".

Fanciful plants called moonworts, clustered lady's-slippers, rein orchids, and constance's bittercress also depend on ancient cedar grove habitat for survival (Lichthardt, 1999). Inconspicuous, fern-like moonworts are especially linked to certain ancient cedar groves on the Clearwater. In 1999 Lichthardt discovered 4 populations of moonworts in 3 groves — critical habitat essential for the survival of the moonwort sub-genus Botrychium in the state of Idaho. Without these groves, the moonworts may be pushed closer to endangerment. Their plight represents that of many plants that live among giant cedars.

Skewed management haunts these precious lands daily. In the Forest Plan of 1987, the Clearwater National Forest defines "old-growth" as "a stand that is past full maturity and showing decay; the later stages of Forest succession," and call it a "vital component of the vegetative diversity of the Clearwater Forest" (pH-1). Yet the managers who wrote this report allow old-growth to be put up for sale on a regular basis.

Most inventoried remnant groves do not have "conservation value" because they are too small (Lichthardt, 1999) — their surroundings have been whittled away for timber and roads. Logging at the edge causes changes in moisture, air movement, and sunlight. Ideally, ancient groves should be embedded in 40 acres of "buffer" forest to prevent any harmful edge effects (Lichthardt, interview 10/12/00). So we curse them once by logging on their edges, then we curse them again by refusing to protect them.

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To many Northwest Native Americans, cedars are special, sacred, the arbor vitae or "tree of life." They made everything from clothing to baskets to canoes out of these great totems. They depended upon them for sustaining life. Natives believe that if you stand with your back to a cedar, you will be graced with spiritual and healing powers (Eifert, 2000). These trees are likewise special, sacred, the arbor vitae in my life. But I do not make clothing or canoes out of them. I have been raised in a society where wood products come from Home Depot. But like the many Natives before me, I find in cedars a source of strength, power, and peace.

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The canopy engulfs me in cool, green darkness. I am surrounded. These trees do not have just one trunk, but five or six trunks sprouting like broccoli crowns from bulky stalks. They stand tall and strong as families — mothers and daughters and sons and fathers, rooted in time and space. Unlike most ancient cedar groves on the Clearwater, this grove will live for its natural life thanks to people who fought for its preservation years ago.

Now it's up to people like us to work to protect the few groves that remain. Of the 21 groves that Lichthardt inventoried, only 5 are protected for logging. Because of the small size of the remnant groves, no current management designations "fit." Two shabby designations exist: the "Research Natural Area (RNA)" and the "Special Interest Area (SIA)." The RNA status does not apply to small areas, so most remnant groves are ruled out. A SIA designation would protect the immediate area, but this will only "rope off" the last few acres and will not take into account the whole ecosystem, leaving non-functioning, "isolated artifacts." This is Juanita Lichthardt with an 8 ft dbh tree in the lodge Creek grove that stands along a road.

We need to find a new solution to protect these ancient cedar groves. To be part of this solution, we are starting the Ancient Cedar Protection Project. We will work for conservation of the last remaining rare communities of ancient cedar groves in the inland northwest through fieldwork and policy recommendations. This project, sponsored by Friends of the Clearwater and Idaho Conservation League, consists of 2 main parts:

- 1) fieldwork — complete inventory of ancient cedar groves on the CNF, NPNF, and St. Joe NF in summer of 2001
- 2) policy recommendations — collaborate with USFS, CDC, and other ecologists to write policy recommendations for the

management of ancient cedar groves in the fall and winter of 2001. We will especially work for a hearty protection designation in the new CNF forest plan due out in 2002.

In 1998 & 1999 local plant ecologist Juanita Lichthardt surveyed and inventoried many of the accessible ancient cedar groves in the CNF initially identified by Tracey Parker in the 1970s. Data collected during inventories goes into a database at the Conservation Data Center in Boise. They set conservation priorities for the state, so baseline information about ancient cedar groves is necessary for permanent protection. There are a group of un-inventoried groves that need to be surveyed. This is where we come in. There is no more agency funding to complete the ancient cedar grove inventory on the CNF. We will complete it. Also, to our knowledge, there has never been an inventory of groves on the NPNF. We will try to inventory as many of the NP groves as possible. Art Zack, ecologist for the St. Joe, has been working on an inventory of ancient cedar groves in his NF. If he needs further assistance completing his inventory, we will help him there, too.

A basic inventory consists of the following activities: determining the habitat type, mapping the grove, establishing the size of the grove, describing the surrounding land use, counting and measuring giant trees, and taking photos. Documenting the presence of rare plants is also incredibly valuable for leverage for protection.

We need volunteers to help us complete ancient cedar grove inventories on the CNF, NPNF, and possibly the SJNF. Volunteers will be required to attend inventory training on June 23rd hosted by Juanita Lichthardt. Juanita will teach us how to conduct an accurate inventory. Then, in July, August, and September, we will head out into the forest in groups to visit and inventory groves. Some overnight backpacking trips will be necessary to access the remote groves. Most likely, Friends of the Clearwater will provide monetary compensation for gas and food. Ashley Martens will organize volunteers and keep track of data collection for submission to the CDC.

After completing the ancient cedar grove inventory in the summer, we will use the data we collected, the data already on file at the CDC, and other relevant information to begin writing policy recommendations for the management of ancient cedar groves in the inland northwest. Friends of the Clearwater and Idaho Conservation League will collaborate with plant ecologists, the CDC, USFS, and others to submit a recommendation for permanent protection of ancient cedar groves to the Forest Service. For the CNF, we will aim to influence policy or management of ancient cedars in the new forest plan due out in 2002. We will strive to establish a permanent protection that conserves these endangered communities. This means not only protection of the immediate ancient cedar groves, but also protection of a buffer zone around these groves to minimize unnatural edge effects. Please join us in this project to protect the elders of our forests.

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Go to these groves. Take your friends and your families and walk among the towering beauty of giants. In them, you will find a passion for life that has been lost in the giant stumps that dwell in the clearcuts of America. Lean your back into a cedar tree. In its strength you will find inspiration and peace. We cannot afford to live without them. Fight for their life-long protection – for yourself, for your neighbors, for your children, and for generations to come.

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Western Redcedar - Thuja plicata
G. Ring 1995

Sawtooths to Selkirks: A Small Look at the Big Picture

By Chris Norden

Josh Burnim's upcoming Sawtooths-to-Selkirks hike, featured in this issue, began in May of 2001 at Redfish Lake in the Idaho Sawtooths, and concludes at Kokanee Glacier in British Columbia some 5 months later. Josh's hike is intended, in part, to focus public awareness on the importance of habitat connectivity in the Northern Rockies region, as part of the larger Yellowstone-to-Yukon (Y2Y) Connectivity Initiative. The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA), which has recently been reintroduced in the current 107th Congress, focuses on the vitally important Northern Rockies portion of this chain of wildlands running up the spine of the western US and deep into western Canada.

Josh's hike seeks to connect the fragmented wildlands of central and northern Idaho, showing the region as a potentially healthy and connected mega-habitat for many native species currently at risk of extinction from habitat fragmentation and habitat loss. More specifically, conservation biologists warn of imminent species loss from the decline in genetic diversity and genetic flow and mixing, which such fragmentation causes. Concern about species loss is greatest for large mammals, but extends to birds, fish, and plant species also, all of whom are negatively impacted by habitat loss and fragmentation.

By limiting industrial mining, logging, and livestock grazing in these sensitive areas, it is calculated that NREPA will save taxpayers millions of dollars in corporate welfare, particularly in reducing subsidized clearcutting, road building, fire suppression and thinning programs, as well as costs associated with Endangered Species Act enforcement, compliance, and mitigation. NREPA would likewise create over 2,000 new jobs in restoration work, and will have positive impacts on water quality and salmon recovery as well, both in Idaho and region wide.

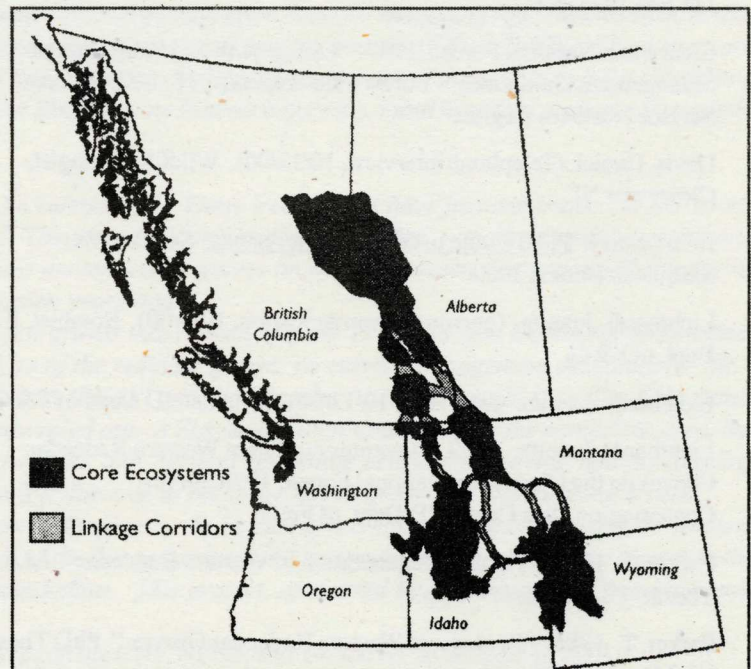
A major piece of conservation legislation garnering increasing support and awaiting Congressional approval, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act-H.R. 488, cosponsored by Christopher Shays (R-CT) and Carol Maloney (D-NY)—seeks to connect major roadless areas in the Northern Rockies. NREPA establishes connecting corridors, which will allow at risk animals like grizzly, bison, bighorn, elk, caribou, and mountain lion to move between otherwise isolated roadless areas, thereby achieving better exchange of genetic diversity, which in turn will help ensure the stability and survival of these biologically invaluable and embattled populations.

The Northern Rockies ecosystems that Josh will be traveling through are themselves key components of the larger Yellowstone-to-Yukon wildlands connectivity project (Y2Y) now gathering momentum internationally. Since the 1964 Wilderness Act, there have been islands of protected wilderness in this part of the country, but as isolated islands of habitat, these fragmented wildlands are subject to species loss due to lack of genetic flow and exchange, which results in large chunks of wild land falling below the minimum viable habitat requirements of several species, particularly large predator mammals.

By limiting industrial mining, logging, and livestock grazing in these sensitive areas, it is calculated that NREPA will save taxpayers millions of dollars in corporate welfare, particularly in reducing subsidized clearcutting, road building, fire suppression and thinning programs, as well as costs associated with Endangered Species Act enforcement, compliance, and mitigation. NREPA would likewise create over 2,000 new jobs in restoration work, and will have positive impacts on water quality and salmon recovery as well, both in Idaho and region wide.

Josh's hike this spring, summer, and fall will take him through the Idaho portion of a larger wildlands complex that the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Act actively seeks to reconnect. NREPA will reestablish connectivity between major wildlands in the Northern Rockies, including such gems as the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in northwest Wyoming and adjacent Idaho and Montana; the Salmon-Selway Idaho Wildlands complex; the Hells Canyon/Wallowa region on the Idaho/Oregon border; and the Greater Cabinet/Yaak/Selkirk and Glacier/North Continental Divide ecosystems, stretching from northern Idaho into western Montana.

More information on NREPA can be accessed at: www.wildrockiesalliance.org



Core ecosystems and habitat linkage corridors of the Wild Rockies Bioregion.

N.F.P.R.A.

By Jennifer Lefeber

The National Forest Protection and Restoration Act (NFPPRA) was reintroduced in the U.S. Congress in early April 2001 by lead sponsors, Representatives Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) and James Leach (R-IA). As this newsletter went to press in May '78 additional members of Congress had signed on as co-sponsors. NFPPRA calls for the protection of all National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, Bureau of Land Management and National Park lands from commercial logging while redirecting current logging subsidies towards worker retraining, non-wood fiber research, and permanent funding to Counties for schools and roads. The bill immediately protects all roadless areas and old growth forests by canceling logging projects in those areas while funding scientifically based ecological restoration in the woods and giving preference to displaced timber workers for those jobs.

"Our National Forests provide the American public with clean drinking water for our communities, outstanding recreation for families, and unexcelled wildlife and fish habitat," said Congresswoman McKinney. "Clearly we need to protect these important resources while also putting people to work restoring the damage caused by a century of logging and associated road building in our national forests." Referring to the wildfires of summer 2000, McKinney lamented that some of her colleagues were using the wildfires as an excuse to increase the Forest Service's logging program across the country. McKinney stated however, that: "science shows that logging is the problem, not the solution."

"This bill is about as mainstream as it gets. It not only protects our national forests, it saves taxpayers \$300 million annually," said Tom Weis, Executive Director of the National Forest Protection Alliance, a grassroots coalition representing 300 environmental groups, businesses and religious organizations. Echoing Congresswoman McKinney's sentiments, he stated, "It's time to get the federal government out of the logging business and into the business of protecting and restoring the public's national forests."

FOC Helps Challenge Forest Planning Regulations

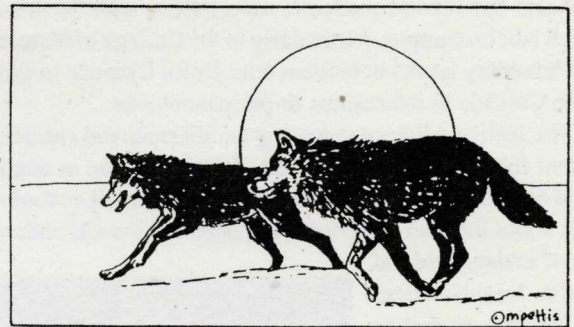
FOC has joined several other conservation organizations in challenging the new national forest planning regulations. These regulations, pushed by the Clinton administration, removed measurable and enforceable standards and replaced them with feel-good language lacking any teeth. These regulations are important in that they guide the future of the national forest planning. The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests will be preparing a joint plan in the coming year or so and the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (St. Joe) is also working on a new plan. Marc Fink, an excellent attorney from the Western Environmental Law Center, is representing us in this case.

Caribou Recovery?

Friends of the Clearwater released an exploratory report into the possibility of caribou recovery in the Clearwater Basin in North Central Idaho to the Idaho Department of Fish and game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The report, prepared by Eric Salontai, a soon-to-be graduate of the University of Idaho in Environmental Science, includes documented historical sightings and habitat conditions.

The report has some important observations. First, caribou historically inhabited Central Idaho. Second, the Clearwater Basin is the southern limit of the cedar hemlock forests in the Rocky Mountains. These forests are important components of caribou habitat. Third, the large size of the Clearwater Basin (and, the adjacent upper St. Joe River drainage), the public ownership of most lands in the cedar-hemlock forests, and the basin's large undeveloped/unroaded areas may make this region the most promising for caribou recovery in the US. Finally, more investigation is warranted into the possibility of this region as a recovery area for caribou.

FOC is planning to release a more in-depth report over the next several months.



Other Summer Projects

Want to help Friends of the Clearwater this summer and get out at the same time? In addition to the ancient cedar project and the calendar of events in this newsletter, we have a project documenting ORV use in roadless areas/roadless area boundaries. This is a fun project where you get to hike and photograph areas. Money is available for film and some travel reimbursement. We are still working with our partners in the Great Grizzly Search to look for signs in the Clearwater region.

Also, FOC has offered to help Idaho Department of Fish and Game non-game wildlife biologist, Rita Dixon, with surveys of rare species in the Clearwater region. Call the FOC office at 208-882-9755, email foc@wildrockies.org, or write for more information on these three projects.

University of Idaho Students Move to Expel Boise Cascade from their Campus

From the Justice Alliance

Two dozen students and community members convened on the University of Idaho May 2 to protest Boise Cascade's presence at the campus. Carrying a banner, the people marched to UI president Bob Hoover's office chanting, "Boise Cascade's Got Some Clout, But We're Gonna Kick Them Out!" Once at President Hoover's office, a letter was presented to President Hoover asking the University of Idaho to end all academic and economic associations with Boise Cascade. The Justice Alliance, a social/environmental justice student group organized the march.

Boise Cascade is a major purchaser of old growth and virgin wood worldwide. Headquartered in Boise, this company has a long history of destroying ancient forests in the Western United States and abroad in Chile, Canada, and Mexico. In Idaho, Boise Cascade has logging operations all over the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests and until recently stopped by a court decision, the company was logging the Cuddy Mountain timber sale in the Payette National Forest.

At the University of Idaho, Boise Cascade wields considerable influence. Almost every department on campus (aside from the Environmental Science Program and the Department of Resource, Recreation, and Tourism) uses paper products from Boise Cascade. All of the campus computer labs use 100% virgin wood paper, a great portion of which is supplied by Boise Cascade. In the financial realm, the University has invested \$350,000 in Boise Cascade long-term maturities. Boise Cascade also has several academic associations with departments and individuals research labs on campus, particularly in the College of Natural Resources. In addition, the University works in tandem with Boise Cascade to funnel students to work for Boise Cascade in internships or permanent jobs.

The Justice Alliance is joining an international campaign to end the logging of ancient forests by Boise Cascade. With \$7 billion in annual sales in their international operations, Boise Cascade is far from a small, community-based company that cares about the land and people impacted. Boise Cascade will continue its destruction of endangered old growth forests unless the people pressure them to stop. Next year, the Justice Alliance will focus on working with specific campus departments to dissociate from Boise Cascade. The group is seeking volunteers to help research alternatives to Boise Cascade office products and to provide general assistance to the campaign.

For more info or to get involved, email us at justicealliance@hotmail.com or visit www.ran.org and follow the Boise Cascade link.

Wild Rockies Earth First! Rises Again

By Julia Piaskowski

After a decade of resistance, the Cove/Mallard Coalition is declaring victory for the Cove/Mallard area and going into hibernation until Cove/Mallard is threatened again. The Cove/Mallard timber sales were informally stopped by the Forest Supervisor in 1999 and this roadless area may be permanently protected under the now tenuous roadless policy. The Coalition will continue to function as a plaintiff in the lawsuit against Highland Construction and government officials for the attack in 1998 and will be revived if the ecological integrity of this area is ever threatened again. Many of the associated individuals are now working with Wild Rockies Earth First! to protect the Northern Rockies from resource extractive threats to the bioregion. To get involved or receive more information, email wref@wildrockies.org



Summer Events Calendar

Saturday June 23. Training for those wishing to do cedar inventories with renowned botanist Juanita Lichthardt. Call Ashley at 882-1444 for more information (see related article for more details).

Saturday July 7. Visit Grandmother Mountain, closest larger roadless area to Moscow. This is a great spot with wonderful views. A Sierra Club outings program, co-sponsored by Friends of the Clearwater. Call Gary at 882-9755 for more information and registration.

Saturday September 9. Visit Graves Peak overlooking the Lochsa country. A strenuous hike in country little changed by humans from before Lewis and Clark. A Sierra Club outings program co-sponsored by Friends of the Clearwater. Call Gary at 882-9755 for more information and registration.

Saturday September 16. and Sunday September 17. Visit ancient cedar groves with Ashley Martens, self-taught cedar expert and catalyst behind protecting old cedars in our area. A Sierra Club outings program, co-sponsored by Friends of the Clearwater. Call Ashley at 882-1444 for more information and registration.

NOTE: Thanks to the Palouse Group Sierra Club for allowing us to co-sponsor outings with them

In Memoriam

By Gary Macfarlane

Friends of the Clearwater lost a great friend in Paul Fritz who passed away recently. Paul was a long-time supporter and member of Friends of the Clearwater. Although he lived in Boise, he had a great affinity for North Idaho and the Clearwater region. He was a loyal friend and who never stopped working for protection of Idaho's wildlands.

Paul spent much of his career with the Park Service trying to turn the agency into a real conservation outfit. After retiring from government service, he was a tireless and innovative conservationist, promoting the protection of fragile landscapes through a variety of methods. He was an unflinching advocate for parks who knew just about everybody. As such, his influence was great.

Last fall I corresponded with him about the idea of establishing a national park in Idaho. I wished I had the opportunity to meet with him again to discuss this idea in more detail.

Paul died shortly after one of his visits to look at potential Southwest parks. His field trips eventually resulted in protected landscapes. Paul was the leader in efforts to preserve Idaho treasures like Craters of the Moon, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, and City of Rocks. People of his vision, dedication and skill are far too rare.

We will miss his experience and wisdom. After knowing Paul for over 15 years, I wish he were still around to guide us in our efforts to protect the Clearwater country.

"Today's mail brought a \$100 check to our National treasury from a New York woman. Oh! That a thousand of our good women who wish success to our cause would be moved thus to send in their checks! Only a very few women can go abroad to lecture, organize, agitate and educate, but very many can contribute money. . . and they who can't go, and can't speak, must help, each and everyone in every possible way, with their hope, their faith, their money. . . Who will send the next \$100? Oh, that we had \$10,000 to start with! Can't we have it, is the question." —Letter, Susan B. Anthony, 1893

Help protect the wild Clearwater by joining Friends of the Clearwater today!

- \$15 - Living Lightly

- \$25 - Basic Membership

- \$100 - Forest Supporter

- This is what I can afford,
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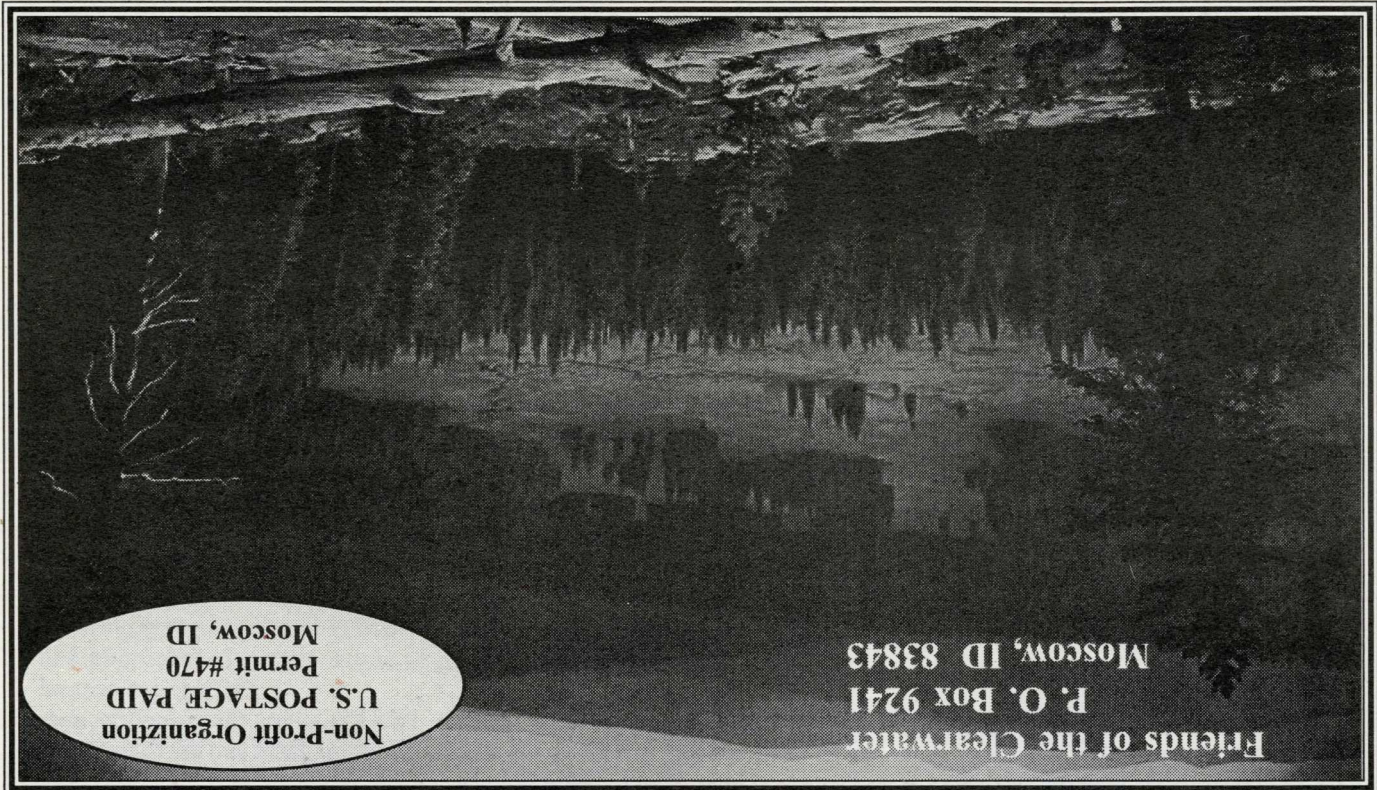
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In this issue of the Clearwater Defender:

Clean Slate / Meadow Face

Write, or say goodbye to the Nez Perce N.F.

Of Ungulates and Ugly Land Grabs

????????????????????

The Ancient Cedars Protection Project

An enjoyable way to help

S2S, Y2Y, Oh My!

Roadless and other updates