

Clearwater Defender

News of the Big Wild

Friends of the Clearwater

Winter 2001-2002, Vol. 1 No. 4

Of Cat Herding and Pen Pals

By Gary Macfarlane

The first part of the headline metaphorically describes what it is like trying to protect wildlands biodiversity in the Clearwater region, the northern half of the Big Wild. There is always the U.S. Forest Service to deal with, the BLM on the scattered parcels it administers in the region, and the state's Department of Lands. When wildlife is affected, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game enters the picture. The presence of endangered species calls in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service for salmon and steelhead.

The Forest Service is preparing four massive timber sales: two on the Clearwater and two on the Nez Perce National Forests. Three of them would log roadless areas - Clean Slate, North Lochsa Face and Middle Black (the elk-logging sham). In addition, the Nez Perce National Forest is proposing to salvage log a place aptly named Burnt Flats. Logging areas recently burned by fire is a bad idea, as it has negative effects on watersheds and wildlife.

There is a glimmer of hope. The two sales on the Clearwater could be dropped or changed to be something other than timber sales. The current Clearwater forest supervisor, Larry Dawson, is new and may take a fresh look at these ill-advised, pending proposals.

There is something people can do to help the situation in that regard; become a pen pal of Larry Dawson, the new forest supervisor. Write now and write often, especially if and when the North Lochsa Face and Middle Black Environmental Impact Statement come out for public review.

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A Massive Clay Mine for Latah County?

Alchemy Ventures, a Canadian-based company, has proposed to build a huge clay mine on state land adjacent to the Palouse Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest. This proposal has been trudging along for about a year and would be located about 30 miles east of Moscow, ID.

By James B. Smith

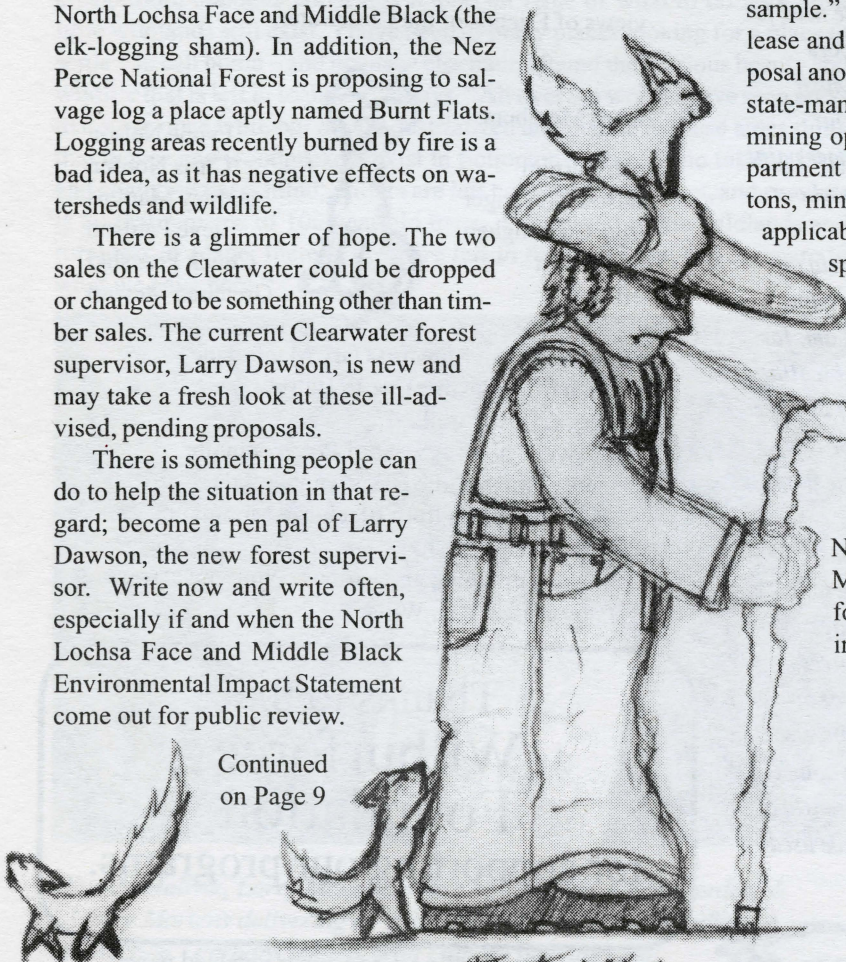
Alchemy continues to belch great clouds of mirror-enhanced smoke and, as we've come to expect, very little action beyond filing papers and talk. Most talk in the past month or so has centered around their effort to mine 20 tons of clay from two different sites near Moose Creek reservoir and call it a "bulk sample." They have attempted to do this without obtaining a lease and a full blown mining permit—calling this latest proposal another test—and thereby avoiding following any of the state-mandated environmental safeguards that apply to normal mining operations on state land. FOC complained to the Department of Lands office that whether it is 20 tons or 2 million tons, mining is mining and the mining company must follow applicable regulations. There has not been a substantive response from either the state or Alchemy on this matter.

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Wild North Fork Logging Alert

The Middle Black EIS which proposes under certain alternatives to log in two large chunks of wild country in the North Fork Clearwater drainage, specifically the Pot Mountain and Mallard Larkins roadless areas, is out for public comment. FOC will be mailing out an alert in the next couple of weeks. You can obtain a copy of

the document by calling the Forest Service 208-476-4541 and talking to Tam White. You can also download the document at www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/middleblack



From the Editor:

I usually paste the welcome letter from our president in this spot, but I can't do that this time around because Emily went and got hitched, moved, and had to resign. The new Board of Directors has yet to sock someone with this task, so ya got me. So here I am, gorged on a Thanksgiving feast, taking a break from my sisters and our seven kids (who are at Hogwarts at the moment), and writing my first editorial. But what should I write about? I could write about the hypocrisy of bombing innocent people in response to innocent people being bombed. But that is a little beyond the scope of this newsletter and would probably land me on the - McCarthy style - "less than a patriot" list being compiled by our Second Lady (if I'm not already on it). I could write about the Idaho government's apparent decision that poor people don't really need to eat; I guess it's easier to force them into desperate acts and throw them into the ever-bulging jails. Or focusing closer to home, I could write about the mixed blessing of our beloved Clearwater National Forest making the list of top ten most endangered forests.

But I think I'll start with what you have in your hands: paper. Yes paper, which fuels the bureaucratic wheels of society, and whose production has generated the false need for wood pulp that is itself a major cause of our forest woes (greed, of course, being the ultimate cause). Paper, which brings us so much knowledge via the printed word. Our children learn their first self-expression scribbling finger paints on paper. Our photographs are on paper; indeed almost our entire heritage is recorded on paper.

Our society is built on a house of (paper) cards. We rely on paper for everything from our heritage to wiping our bums. But, what will we do when the trees are all gone? (I am, for the moment, ignoring the other treasures in a living, breathing, adapting ecosystem called a forest). With the growth of paper use; and the rate the forests are shrinking, it won't be long until we are just plain out of wood pulp. Sustainable harvest indeed!

In selecting the paper source for this newsletter, I was involved in an interesting discussion/debate over the relative merits of recycling versus using alternative pulp sources. I preferred the idea of developing alternative fiber sources, including that of industrial hemp and he was in favor of putting more efforts into improved recycling. This conversation was the inspiration for this article. By the way, we bought the recycled paper you are holding from him, it's currently a whole lot less expensive than the alternative fibers we used before.

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Friends of the Clearwater

PO Box 9241

Moscow, ID 83843

(208) 882-9755

foc@wildrockies.org

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

Friends of the Clearwater is devoted to the protection of Idaho's Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem, the largest relatively intact wild area left in the lower 48 states. This undiscovered gem on America's public lands contains many unprotected roadless areas and provides crucial habitat for countless species. Friends of the Clearwater helps defend this ecosystem through an aggressive Forest Watch program and a proven track record.

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

The 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: A view of Pot Mountain, site of the Middle Black Timber Sale, looking across from Blacklead Mountain by Chuck Pezeshki

Front Cover drawing, and various conniving carnivores by Dustin P.K. Willard

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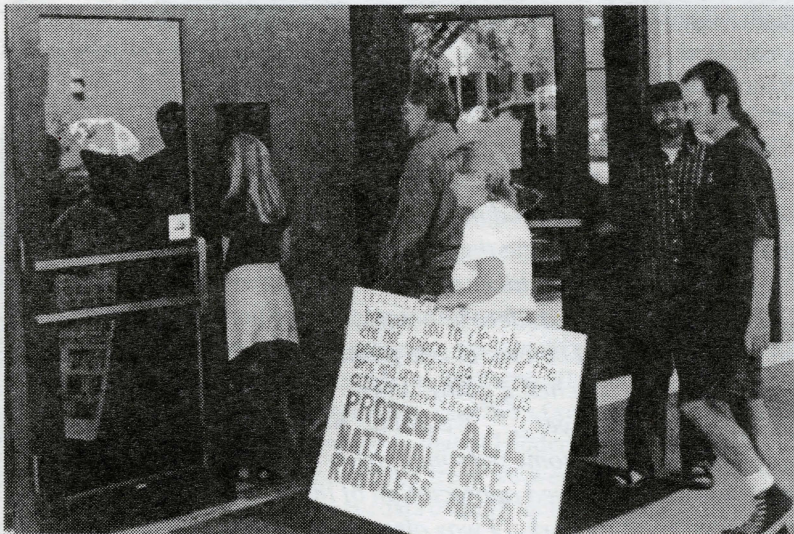
FOC Welcomes New Outreach Director

By Ashley Martens

In August, a smiling new face joined Friends of the Clearwater as the first part-time outreach director. Eva Jo Hallvik grew up in Coeur d'Alene, graduated from the University of Idaho, and has extensive experience in outreach and education. Eva spent four years in Africa with the U.S. Peace Corps working in community development through a gardening and nutrition program, and also worked for Forum for Intercultural Communication in Washington, D.C., coordinating dialogues between foreign and national individuals and organizations for the purpose of sharing information of what is and is not working in the areas of economic development and environmental concerns. Here in Moscow, in addition to working for FOC, Eva coordinates the Farmer's Market for the City of Moscow and has her own massage therapy business.

Eva has been working on a variety of outreach projects, including coordinating events such as Josh Burnim's "Sawtooths to Selkirks Hike Slide Show." She also reaches out to a greater public through radio, organizes outreach programs with local libraries and other entities, creates new display materials, and continues to open dialogue with a broader audience. Eva's expertise, passion, and experience will give FOC a more diverse face and approach.

"When I was in Washington, D.C., my own secret mission slogan was 'no new roads in Idaho', and now I finally have come home to Idaho to create more dialogue about this important issue of what to do with what little wildlands still exist. I have been to many places looking for a place to settle – to call home – and no place else have I found the glorious beauty and wildlife that is left in Idaho," Eva says. "All over the world I have seen areas that were once wild, but now industrialized and people in those areas think that moose and woodpeckers exist in fiction only; there is no turning back and changing one's mind; critters are left homeless, go extinct, and sawdust is all that remains of 100 year old trees. I am proud of the wildlands and ruralness of Idaho; there is nowhere left in the world that can compare to what we have here."



Eva Jo Hallvik, Larry McLaud, Gary Macfarlane, Chris Norden, & Ashley Martens delivering a "postcard" in support of roadless protection. Perhaps the F.S. won't ignore this one - Ed.

Clearer Sailing on the Clearwater?



By Gary Macfarlane

The Clearwater National Forest has a new supervisor, Larry Dawson. He came from the Dakota Grasslands (yes, the national grasslands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service) where he was supervisor.

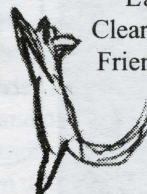
I had the chance to meet with him not long after he arrived. He is very intelligent and listens to what people have to say. He worked well with conservationists in the Dakotas and has the potential to make important changes in the way the Clearwater National Forest is administered. We discussed topics ranging from the two terrible timber sales I asked him to cancel, North Lochsa Face and Middle Black, to ORVs and the damage they cause. I gave him a copy of the summer edition of Wild Earth that has an article about allowing designated wilderness to remain wild, which was authored by George Nickas of Wilderness Watch and myself.

There is reason to hope he can make some important changes. I'm not holding my breath, though. I can only do it for a couple of minutes, at most, and Larry Dawson's tenure has already been longer than that. Time will tell.

Changes in North Idaho Conservation

Recently, Larry McLaud, the long-time staff person for the Idaho Conservation League here in North Idaho resigned from his position with ICL. Larry has been a real force for positive change over the past seven years he has been at ICL. He is a great coalition builder and strategist. Those qualities led to the successful creation of the Wild Clearwater Coalition, in which Friends of the Clearwater plays a prominent role, and to the outstanding lawsuit won on behalf of the Coalition member groups by the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies.

Larry's heart is here in the Wild Clearwater country. He will be working with Friends of the Clearwater on conservation issues. Thanks to Larry for all he has done and for all he continues to do!



The Ancient Cedars Protection Project – Summer Update

By Matt Finer

Ancient cedar groves are home to the oldest and grandest trees of the northern Rockies. Old growth cedars may exceed ages of 1,000 years, stand over 200 feet tall, and dwarf all other things, with circumferences up to twenty feet. Ancient cedar groves are not only beautiful, but also a boon for biodiversity. Due to their extreme age and rarity, ancient cedar groves represent unique and irreplaceable biological communities. In addition, ancient groves provide critical habitat for several rare plant and animal species, plus cool summer and buffered winter habitat for bear, deer, elk, and moose.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Forest Service continues to liquidate the last of these ancient forests. After a century of heavy logging that has decimated the vast majority of ancient cedar groves in the Inland Northwest, threats from logging continue, now often in the guise of “ecosystem management” projects. Of the 19 known remnant groves left standing in the Clearwater National Forest, only five are protected. Protecting only five heavily visited groves (totaling a little over a hundred acres) in all the Clearwater is too dangerous a biological gamble.

Thus, the Ancient Cedars Protection Project was born, with the goal of locating and conserving the last remaining ancient groves in the Inland Northwest. During the summer of 2001, eleven potential ancient groves (based on old Forest Service and logging company records) in the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests were targeted for discovery and documentation. All 11 of these groves were well off the beaten path and each would require a unique, and likely difficult, journey. Some were not to be found and others proved too inaccessible, but in the end, four magnificent groves were found and documented this summer, a first step toward their eventual protection.

Hidden Creek, East Bank:

This potential grove presented an immediate challenge in that it was on the east bank of the North Fork of the Clearwater, across the river from Hidden Creek Campground and away from any roads or trails. The cedar hunters - Gretchen Stewart, Lynne Haagensen, and myself - decided that the best bet was to simply ford the river. However, it turned out that even in this low flow year, fording the North Fork wasn't as easy as it looked. The current was quite strong in some places, and we all made it across a little wetter than planned. Once across, however, we were quickly immersed in a world of huge trees and lush lady fern. The best part was that the deeper we got, the more magnificent the trees became. The masterpiece was a mammoth that measured over 30 feet around (10 feet in diam-



eter)! In addition, 13 trees were greater than six feet in diameter, and 13 more measured over 5 feet in diameter (Note: five feet in diameter is the criteria for being considered an ancient cedar). It was also quite obvious that this was a haven for wildlife, as deer, elk, and bear scat was everywhere.



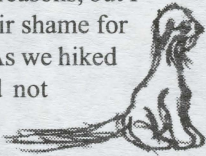
The ancient cedar grove documentation project motivated me to see a part of the Clearwater National Forest that I had never visited although I have lived in Latah County for more than 20 years. The project gave me the opportunity to be led into the forest by a skilled, experienced hiker close to my age, Gretchen Stewart, and a young graduate student in botany, Matt Finer. I hiked farther than I had ever hiked before; at one point I looked down a very steep slope and asked Gretchen if going down - and back up - was possible! She said, “Oh yes...” We did it. Before the cedar hunt, I'd been discouraged by some personal problems. After it, my mind was clear. With renewed appreciation of the beauty of nature, I was ready to get back to work. I was also ready to be active protecting our forests. Thanks for the experience, FOC. Lynne Haagensen



Photos of Matt Finer, Lynne Haagensen, and ancient trees and stumps by Gretchen Stewart

Upper Hidden Creek:

The journey to the Upper Hidden Creek Grove was an emotional roller coaster. Hidden Creek is a tributary of the north fork and this potential grove was to be located in a moist wedge between a north and south fork near the headwaters of Hidden Creek. The same cedar hunters (Stewart, Haagensen, and Finer) decided the best access was an old logging road circling around the headwaters of Hidden Creek. This Forest Service logging road is now closed for supposed wildlife reasons, but I suspect it's really to hide their shame for what we were about to see. As we hiked along this road, we crossed not one, not two, not three, but

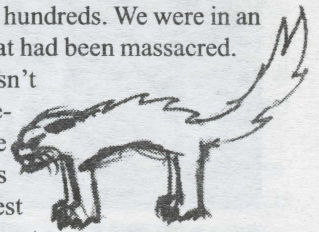


four clearcuts. But it was this fourth clearcut that was most tragic because it would have been a majestic ancient cedar grove for sure. We stood next to massive stumps that dwarfed us even in their death. And it wasn't just a couple massive stumps; it was literally hundreds. We were in an



ancient cedar forest that had been massacred.

As it turns out, it wasn't an old clearcut done before the Forest Service knew any better; it was a 1994 job. In the saddest



twist, this massive clearcut extended all the way down the riparian slope to Hidden Creek and thus provided the best access to our grove. Shaken and depressed as we reached the wedge, we were quickly cheered up with the sight of massive cedars. We found five cedars greater than seven feet in diameter and an additional 19 that were greater than five feet. Many magnificent snags still stood their ground and the understory was made up of a diverse mix of ferns and wildflowers. We unfortunately ran into time constraints, so a potentially large portion of the grove remains unexplored.



Can Creek:

The Can Creek grove was supposedly a mile upstream along Can Creek, a small tributary of the North Fork of the Clearwater. No trail even remotely approached the grove, so cedar hunters Larry McLaud and myself decided the best access would be to simply walk up the low flowing creek bed itself. Although quite slippery, this route worked well until we came to a steep face where a gorgeous waterfall must normally reside. Thus forced out of the creek bed and onto the steep slope of the woods, we continued to clamor uphill and upstream, and quickly became blackened from the ashes of a recent burn. We eventually reached a point where Can Creek diverged into a north and south fork, creating a moist wedge very similar to that of Hidden Creek. It is at this wedge that we found the big trees we were looking for. We found around 20 ancient cedars overall, including a giant eight-footer. The understory was dominated by the gorgeous maidenhair fern adding a nice touch to the grove. On a disturbing note, however, many trees in the immediate area were covered in infamous blue Forest Service paint, which usually indicates trees to be cut.

Weitas Butte:

This grove was found by Ashley Martens and Noel Palmer. Here is Ashley's account of the trip: "This weekend we walked into one of the most amazing ancient forests I've ever seen. Noel and I headed out on an old trail from the Weitas Butte Lookout at about 5400' and worried that we were too high for cedars. As we walked down onto a flat terrace on the butte, we transitioned from lodgepole pine to grand fir to mixed forest to giant cedars! This area was fantastic! It was a stomping grounds for elk, moose, bear, and many other wildlife — tracks and trails everywhere! We measured and leaned our backs into many trees over eight feet in diameter. We were in a cathedral. Every time we thought we'd faded out of the typical 'ancient' stand, we'd wander a bit further and end up in yet another (and another!) stand of giants! This grove is known to people — there is even a trail to it and a hunter's tree sit/blind in it — but it has never been documented as an ancient grove of cedars, and now it will be!"

First Annual Running Wolf Powwow a Great Success

By Chris Norden

On August 24-26, the first annual Running Wolf Powwow drew a large and enthusiastic crowd of several hundred to the Wolf Education and Research Center in Winchester, Idaho. Hosted by the Lightning Creek Drum from Lapwai, Idaho, who were joined by Spirit of the Renegade Drum and Hillside Drum, two other groups from Nez Perce country, the powwow drew people from throughout the region, from as far away as Boise, Missoula, and Spokane. The powwow also served as an opportunity to publicize and strengthen the ongoing cooperative relationship between the Nez Perce tribe, Friends of the Clearwater, and various other conservation organizations dedicated to wolf recovery and habitat protection.



*Black Beaver, a.k.a. Levi Holt, leads a welcome dance
Photos by David Willard*

The Running Wolf Powwow is the brainchild of Wolf Education and Research Center's Cultural Enrichment Programs Director Levi Holt. Holt wanted to host an event at the Wolf Center that would celebrate the survival and recovery of the gray wolf as well as the successful and historically unprecedented role of the Nez Perce tribe in recovering an endangered species in direct partnership with Congress and U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

"The First Annual Running Wolf Powwow was heralded as a success by tribal members in attendance," said Holt. "It was a very strong powwow, with a unique nature and spirit, dedicated to the gray wolf and its habitat. Participants gave more than just their attendance." For the duration of the powwow, Friends of the Clearwater and other invited organizations were stationed at tables around the grounds distributing information, talking with attendees, and collecting signatures on a "Giant Postcard," sent in September to the U.S. Forest Service reminding them of continued strong public support for the Roadless Initiative, and for protection of all remaining roadless public lands throughout the country.

Representatives from several invited conservation organizations gathered on Saturday morning, before the day's grand entry, meeting with Nez Perce tribal representatives Levi Holt and Jamie Pinkham. The meeting, lasting several hours, began with a pipe ceremony and recognition of the support the Wolf Center and the tribe's gray wolf recovery efforts have received from Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho Rivers United, Hells Canyon Preservation Council, Idaho Conservation League, Defenders of Wildlife, and the National Wildlife Federation. "This is a historical event," Holt said. "Never before have environmental and conservation organizations been so centrally involved in a powwow. The Nez Perce Tribal Executive Council is very pleased and honored that these groups are willing and eager to join the Nez Perce tribe in this cultural event dedicated to supporting and broadening awareness of the gray wolf and other wildlife."

Much of Saturday's discussion centered around the possibility of the government downlisting, delisting, or reclassification of the gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act. The fact this kind of a move is even being considered is testament to the success of the recovery program so far, which covers Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Of the three states, Idaho's recovery results have been the strongest thanks largely to the leading role of the Nez Perce tribe in recovery efforts and wolf management. After several years of recovery efforts, there are now approximately 17 packs in Idaho, with a total population of between 200 and 300 individuals, including 63 known pups born last season. One exciting rumor we heard, which shall remain unattributed for now, involved the possible natural recolonization of the gray wolf into eastern Oregon.

"Idaho has shown the rest of the country and the world that this can be done," says Levi Holt. Yet Holt advises caution: "This has been many years in coming. We are several years ahead of schedule; we have time. Reclassification is needed, but we shouldn't rush into it.

Continued on next page

“We Need a Forest Service, not a Timber Service”

By Leslie Einhaus

The words of conservationist David Brower still hold true and will continue to hold true unless something is done. A Timber Service does exist in this country. It is a Timber Service hungry for production and profit, quick to compromise conservation efforts for the Dollar.

The result? Threatened and endangered forests.

The National Forest Protection Alliance is a national grouping of citizens and organizations charged with protecting public lands from commercial exploitation, and specifically, protecting federal public lands from commercial logging.

The NFPA recently issued “America’s Ten Most Endangered National Forests,” which documents in 30-plus pages the current state of the national forest system. Many of the current threats to national forests include: road building, logging, and watershed degradation. “Some might think ending logging on federal lands is environmental extremism,” states Congressman Jim Leach (R-Iowa), who helped sponsor the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act in the 105th Congress (1997). “In fact, it is common sense. Forest preservation is neither a regional nor a partisan issue. The national forests belong to all Americans, and their proper management is everybody’s business.”

In the document, 10 forests – including the Clearwater National Forest, are featured, as well as a listing of other threatened national forests. It is important to note that all 155 forests in the national forest system are damaged by the work of the mining and timber industries.

Off-road vehicles and logging for elk threaten the 1.8 million-acre Clearwater National Forest. Although logging has decreased in the forest in the past 10 years, timber management practices still take a lasting toll on the land. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service has failed to maintain a minimum of 10 percent old growth forest on the Clearwater National Forest. *Note: A recent lawsuit won by the Land and Water Fund for several conservation organizations (including Friends of the Clearwater) succeeded in proving that the USFS was not meeting this standard.*

In the current forest plan, off-road vehicles are permitted in roadless areas, including USFS proposed wilderness areas. Motorized vehicle use affects water quality and decreases the natural beauty of roadless areas all the while threatening various species such as the lynx and wolverine.

The North Lochsa Face and Middle Black projects are huge timber sales now taking place in the Clearwater National Forest. These massive timber sales have been in the works for several years. To voice your opposition to these timber sales, send a letter to Larry Dawson, Clearwater Forest supervisor. Letter-writers should demand roadless area protection and the end to commercial logging in the upcoming forest plan revision. Make sure to mention the North Lochsa Face and Middle Black projects in particular.

In addition to the Clearwater National Forest, NFPA listed nine other “endangered” national forests and demanded their protection:

- o Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania
- o Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas
- o Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota and Wyoming
- o Ottawa National Forest, Michigan
- o George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, Virginia, W. Virginia and Kentucky
- o Umpqua National Forest, Oregon
- o Plumas National Forest, California
- o Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Washington
- o Tongass National Forest, Alaska

In *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold wrote, “To build a road is so much simpler than to think of what the country really needs.” This is the flawed and misguided mindset of the Timber Service... er... Forest Service today. This country needs diehards working to preserve and protect the land. The Friends of the Clearwater is an organization of the National Forest Protection Alliance. Get involved! Check out: www.wildrockies.org/foc. To find out more about the 10 Most Endangered Forests, go to: www.forestadvocate.org/news/10_most_endangered.htm.



Powwow Cont.

There are interests in the state that would like to downlist or delist in order to control the wolf’s population numbers, to keep the packs at a minimum threshold number” (just above the point at which an Endangered Species listing would be triggered).

Finally, Holt applauds cross-cultural cooperation in conservation projects: “There is definitely something to be gained from two very different cultures coming together to work on behalf of future generations. This is a connection Indian people have always maintained, and we are now looking to restore not only wolf, but also salmon, eagle, otter, lynx, and other species that have belonged here in the past.”

Located in Winchester, Idaho, on the Nez Perce Reservation, the Wolf Education and Research Center is dedicated to providing public education about the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) and its habitat in the northern Rocky Mountains. The center provides the public with the rare opportunity to observe and learn about wolves in their natural habitat, and to learn more about traditional tribal understandings of wolves: their place in the world, and specifically their ecological, cultural, and spiritual importance to the Native peoples of North America. The center is the home of the Sawtooth wolf pack, and is open to the public for guided tours year-round. Individuals, groups, and school programs interested in guided tours may contact WERC at (208) 924-6960. It also offers cultural enrichment programs focusing on traditional tribal legends and storytelling. For more information, e-mail Levi Holt at nezperce@camasnet.com.

National Forest Protection



By Gretchen Stewart

The National Forest Protection Alliance (NFPA) was launched two years ago by grassroots activists from every region of the United States. The coalition is made up of approximately 300 environmental groups, businesses, and religious organizations who share a commitment to ending commercial logging on federal public lands. It was founded on the belief that informed groups and individuals acting in a coordinated and strategic manner can organize a strong base of public and political support to achieve positive, lasting social change and environmental protection. The first major campaign of NFPA is the Campaign to End Commercial Logging (ECL) on National Forests. For more information, please visit NFPA at www.forestadvocate.org.



*FOC board member Gretchen Stewart takes a well deserved break at Upper Hidden Creek Ceder Grove
Photo by Lynne Haagenen*

Conservationists Salute Mike Bader at Wild Rockies Rendezvous

By Gary Macfarlane

Mike Bader, the former executive director of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies (AWR), was feted at the organization's annual Wild Rockies Rendezvous in Missoula, Mont. Mike, who left as executive director a few months ago, co-founded the alliance over a decade ago. AWR has been an important umbrella organization for groups like Friends of the Clearwater. FOC belongs to the alliance as a member group and supports the vision of wilderness, restoration, and connectivity pioneered by Mike's leadership. The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, a bold and innovative legislative proposal, is the embodiment of that vision.

Mike showcased one of his many talents at a party in his honor. He and his brothers, joined by noted Montana conservationists Dan Funsch on accordion and Aaron Coffin on guitar, played a couple of blues sets. Mike is an excellent blues guitarist – acoustic and electric – and when he started singing, I thought Robert Johnson had been reincarnated. Carole King, the great musician and Alliance board member, joined the group on stage for a memorable set of songs. I bet you didn't know that Carole King could sing the blues, too.

Congratulations to Mike in his new endeavors. He will continue his involvement in grizzly and bull trout issues for the alliance.

Since April 2001, when lead sponsors, Representatives Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) and James Leach (R-IA) reintroduced the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act (NFPRA) in the U.S. Congress, the number of its co-sponsors in the House of Representatives has grown to 106. NFPRA calls for redirecting current logging subsidies toward worker re-training, non-wood fiber research, and permanent funding to counties for schools and roads while protecting all national forests, national wildlife refuges, Bureau of Land Management and national park lands from commercial logging. The bill immediately protects all roadless areas and old growth forests by canceling logging projects in those areas and simultaneously funding scientifically based ecological restoration in the woods and giving preference to displaced timber workers for those jobs.

"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. "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."

When broken down, the 106 co-sponsors provide an interesting profile: only 25 are from western states – a whopping 24 hail from California and one is from Nevada. Party support as well as gender support is skewed. One-hundred-and-three Democrats, two Republicans, and one Independent have signed on as co-sponsors; 34 (or 62 percent) of the women in the House are co-sponsors, but only 72 (or a mere 19 percent) of the men in the House are co-sponsors. Interesting, don't you agree?

What you can do: 1) Read the whole text of this piece of legislation, House Resolution 1494, at <http://thomas.loc.gov>. 2) Write a letter to the opinion page of your local newspaper urging support of NFPRA 3) Write your congressional representative and urge him or her to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 1494, the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act. Address: The Honorable _____, United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

South Fork Clearwater Dodges Another Threat For Now

Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) and other conservation groups owe a big thanks to the Western Mining Action Project and their two attorneys, Roger Flynn and Jeff Parsons. These two have been helping us out, for free, in challenging proposed dredge-mining operations in the South Fork Clearwater River. Suction-dredge mining is very destructive as it tears up riverbeds with a large vacuum, harming fish and other aquatic life. The South Fork is habitat for endangered salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. The South Fork is listed as a "water quality limited segment" by Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality because of mining and logging in the drainage.

The Western Mining Action Project showed the Forest Service that specific water quality requirements must be met before consideration of dredging can occur. With the possible exception of any illegal dredging that may take place, the South Fork is free of that destructive activity for the time being until the agencies involved decide if and when dredging could proceed in light of water quality concerns. The Western Mining Action Project will continue to help FOC monitor mining activity in the wild Clearwater region and will help us keep an eye on these projects in the future. Now, if the Forest Service would stop permitting logging in the area maybe the South Fork could recover . . .



Clay Mine Continued from Page 1

The lack of a permit to mine, however, (even a permit to do this so-called testing) has not stopped Alchemy from trying to sign papers to lease a 19-acre industrial site one mile south of Deary, ID. The company intends to process the "bulk sample" and other clay mined for the as-yet-to-be-permitted Bovill-Helmer mine at the Deary site. A recent issue of the Deary "Talk of the Town" newspaper ran a front page article on Alchemy's plan for developing the site along with my criticism of the plan. The clay plant issue was discussed at a recent Deary City Council meeting and was given unanimous approval. This writer spoke against the plant but to no avail.

In order to operate the processing plant, Alchemy needs a conditional use permit from Latah County. Recently, the county zoning commission unanimously approved a conditional use permit for the plant over our objections. We filed an appeal and won. The County Commissioners sent the permit issue back to the zoning commission, where it was addressed at yet another public hearing on Dec. 5th.

Meanwhile, Alchemy's "penny" stock is hovering around 40 cents a share, down from one dollar and five cents early in the summer.

Who knows where this effort to block a 10,000-acre, 200 foot deep open-pit mine on forested state land will lead, but we remain committed to the fight.



Cat Herding Continued from Page 1

Dawson is a transplant from North Dakota who now lives in Orofino. He needs all the friends he can get. Being a pen pal is a great way to welcome him to the Big Wild. His address is Larry Dawson, Forest Supervisor, Clearwater National Forest, 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID, 83544. You might want to let him know that he doesn't have to approve either North Lochsa Face or the Middle Black Timber Sales. Those were bad ideas left over from the ancient regime and a nice guy from North Dakota certainly does not want to be part of that legacy.

Speaking of pen pals, Bruce Bernhardt, Nez Perce forest supervisor, needs some mail as well to set him straight. Things have been quit a mess in that part of the world.

First, the horrible Otter-Wing and Mackey Day timber sales have largely been completed, replete with the same problems and violations found in the old Cove/Mallard sales. (*Note: Most of those sales were dropped but the ones that were done had many documented violations, one of the reasons that Bruce Bernhardt canceled the remaining sales.*) Conservationists had been promised that wouldn't happen again. Another case of *deja vu*.

Second, the ill-advised Meadow Face Stewardship Project's committee has imploded. How come agencies love to use doublespeak, words like stewardship, to describe massive industrial logging? This "collaborative" group, one that Friends of the Clearwater said a forceful "NO" to joining, has been taken over by right-wing militia types. Sounds like collaboration hasn't changed much since some of the French tried it during the Second World War.

Third, the massively destructive proposal, Clean Slate, would log a couple thousand acres in a roadless area. That plan has already gone through the draft public involvement stage. A final document with a decision could be coming soon.

Yes, it seems Bruce Bernhardt desperately needs friends of another type, those that care about wildlands. With that in mind, write him: Bruce Bernhardt, Forest Supervisor, Nez Perce National Forest, Route 2 Box 475, Grangeville, ID, 83530. You may want to remind him that logging in roadless areas is a stupid idea and bad for the watershed, regardless of the spin the agency tries to put on it.



Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act

By Chris Norden

The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act is the most ambitious piece of conservation legislation currently pending in Congress. A bipartisan, ecosystem based piece of legislation, NREPA would protect more than 20 million acres of federal public land in the northern Rockies, much of this critical habitat for grizzly bear, caribou, lynx, wolf, wolverine, fisher, marten, bison, bull trout, salmon, goshawk, and elk. In the words of the late David Brower, founder of Earth Island Institute and Friends of the Earth, and former executive director of the Sierra Club, "The best bill for the defense of our remaining unprotected de facto wilderness is the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act."

So far this year, NREPA has already gained over 65 co-sponsors in the 107th Congress, having reached an all-time high of 111 co-sponsors in the previous Congress. Usually for every co-sponsor of a bill, there is at least one other congressperson willing to vote for the bill if it is brought to a vote. So, eventual passage of NREPA is looking like a distinct possibility, particularly if the 2002 election brings more pro-conservation members into Congress.

NREPA will save taxpayers at least \$100 million over the first ten years by prohibiting taxpayer subsidized – or "deficit" – roadbuilding and timber sales in roadless areas. In addition, the bill would create over 2,300 jobs restoring wildlands, and likely many thousands more in tourism, recreation, and related "soft" industries. Supported by almost 1,000 businesses and organizations regionally and nationally, NREPA has several high profile Republican co-sponsors, including Rep. Chris Shays (R-CT), who along with Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) reintroduced the bill to the 107th Congress.

According to Mike Bader, former director of Alliance for the Wild Rockies, the leading conservation organization advocating for the bill, "NREPA is in the best tradition of public interest legislation. Not only will it protect the best of our publicly-owned American wilderness while saving taxpayer dollars, this forward-looking bill, based upon conserving ecosystems rather than isolated islands of biodiversity, serves as a global model for how to manage and protect our rapidly vanishing wildlands."

* Write to your representatives and urge them to support the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H. R. 488.

The Honorable Representative _____

U. S. House of Representatives

Washington, D. C. 20515

Or call your congressperson via the Capitol switchboard: (202) 224-3121.

* For more information on NREPA, go to:

www.wildrockies.org/nrepa

Surprise, Surprise, Surprise

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has just announced its recommendations for the Lower Snake River. They have selected major system structural and operational improvements, now known as the "adaptive migration alternative". This, of course, comes as no surprise, agencies prefer to throw lots of (our) money at problems they create rather than to admit a mistake and simply fix it (i.e. breach the dams). They will be releasing the final Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement early next year for public review. Get those pens ready!

More information can be found at:

www.nww.usace.army.mil/lsr

Annual Meeting

By Erika Cunningham

Thanks to everyone who came to the Friends of the Clearwater annual potluck/meeting. We gathered one fall evening at the newly refurbished 1912 building, where we ate, drank and were merry. Noel Palmer and friends played music from above (a balcony surely left for such purposes.) Thanks you guys! We talked amongst ourselves and ate the scrumptious food provided by our own selves (with a little help from Terry the co-op pizza man and his amazing red curry pizza). As dinner wound down we wandered the room, deciding which items in the silent auction we would bid on. Thanks to all who provided auction items: Steve Paulson, Larry McLaud, Eva Jo Hallvik, Erika Cunningham, Kelly Kingsland, Rick Eichstaedt, Michael Frome, Ludmilla Saskova, Ashley Martens, Julie Rodman, Russel Poe, Eclectica, Tye Dye Everything, Northwest Showcase, Falling Moon Tattoo, Moscow Food Coop, Bookpeople, Dave Willard, Garrett Clevenger, and Mikey's Gyros. This was the most successful auction yet! We raised over six hundred dollars!

After a bit Gary Macfarlane spread the joy of his homemade cookie awards, from volunteer awards to growing food awards to active citizen awards, even a few for himself (self-admitted). The cookies were delicious. We also discussed and elected new board members to two year terms (Erika Cunningham, Lynne Nelson, Levi J. Holt, and Josh Burnim), re-elected three (Jeff Juel, Chris Norden, and Garrett Clevenger), said thanks to past board members for their work (Emily Loeb, past president who moved to Vancouver, BC to pursue a PhD), and said thanks to all of you who continue to help the Big Wild. Soon after the silent auction ended, we cleaned up the hall (thanks everyone!), people grabbed their loot and it was over.

Don't worry if you missed it though. You have more chances to gather with friends, eat some good food and participate in protecting the Big Wild. Watch your E-mail (call us or send it to us if we don't have it) for time and places of upcoming FOC potlucks, plus for up-coming events, like the winter snowshoe trips cosponsored by FOC and the Sierra Club!

Again Thanks for all who came to the biggest annual meeting yet! Enjoy the snow (it's currently coming down!), the winter and the Solstice season coming up. Keep in touch.

Editor Ramblings, Continued from page 2

*I won't go into the relative benefits of hemp vs. wood pulp, (visions of preaching to the choir come to mind), but if you don't know the facts I invite you to become informed. The first (and I feel still the best) source for this is the book *The Emperor Wears No Clothes* by Jack Herer. There are also numerous sources on the web.*

But what about hemp/alternative fibers vs. recycling?

Obviously the answer is a resounding both, but where do you put your efforts?

The last few issues were printed on various (non hemp) alternative fibers, which looked good and had the advantage of coming through standard shipping channels (reducing energy costs). I have found that you cannot get recycled paper through the normal distribution channels. There is (big surprise) a serious bias among paper distributors against stocking recycled products. We had to have this issue's (100% post-consumer recycled) paper shipped point-to-point, thus increasing its energy costs. And of course this paper originally came from a forest (or what was once a forest).

Energy is the lynchpin for any recycling program. If you do a fair accounting of the energy costs, you find that a recycled product is not only more expensive but often more costly to the environment. This is why the glass from Moscow recycling is reused as cap layer at the landfill instead of being recycled.

This is why corporations still pay for their recycling programs out of their public relations budgets.

And of course there is the much higher human energy involved in recycling, all the sorting, saving, hauling, more sorting, more saving, more hauling ... This energy could be better served by concentrating on the other R's, reduce and reuse.

"Reduce and Reuse" significantly reduce the economic and environmental costs associated with a product. Although it is tough in these days of pre-packaged convenience, you have to make lifestyle changes, especially when shopping. I also monitor my garbage output, and try to keep in mind a family of four I heard about who reduced their garbage output to one can per year! (geez and I thought we were doing good at a little under one can per week). They achieved this mostly by buying bulk, non-packaged items, reusing containers, as well as by recycling. (I also feel I should mention that they burned their non-recyclable paper waste, which is not an eco-friendly idea).

But then there is the workplace; here is where great strides could be made in applying the first two R's. So often employees will complete tasks in a very wasteful ways. This is partly because of "procedure", but often because they have no care that they are wasting the institutions' resources. A good example of this was related to me by a friend who worked for the physical plant at a local university. Work orders are

e-mailed to the plant workers, which is a great start, no paper involved. But then the workers would promptly print out the one or two line mail on a full sheet of paper, instead of just noting the task in a notebook. She tried to convince her co-workers to change their methods, to no avail (as far as I know). But she was a lone voice, a bold one to be sure, but not quite enough. We need that choir I mentioned earlier to sing out loudly whenever such wasteful practices are seen. I'm not against recycling; ultimately as we use up our planets resources, recycling will become essential. I can see the day when we will be digging up the landfills for the resources buried there, and wishing that we had sorted the stuff in the first place, instead of rotting it. But the whole system needs to be streamlined, especially in the energy use department. What gets me is people thinking they are acting "green", but still buying lots of sodas and pre-packaged stuff like that thinking "well it's OK because I recycle". Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! At this point, the recycle container is almost as earth damaging as the garbage can is. It would require clean energy for it not to be (I remember when I used to think hydroelectric power was "clean").

We also have to avoid and speak out against "Greenwashing" - that is products or corporations that purport to be eco-friendly, but aren't. Such as recycled paper products that aren't post-consumer and still use chlorine in production, or logging companies who clearcut a forest for its "health".

I'm a great fan of speaking out often and loudly. "Can I help you find anything, sir?" "Sure, do you have any paper products which weren't created by destroying someone's home?" Or at the supermarket: "Did you find everything you were looking for, sir?" "No, I didn't find produce not sprayed down with toxic chemicals, I didn't find milk without added hormones and antibiotics, and I didn't find any warning labels on the genetically engineered food! But thanks for asking." Of course, you are just saying it to some store worker who can't make such decisions, and those who might overhear. But if we keep it up, and apply the Alice's Restaurant principle we can make a difference. For example, the supermarket where I frequently say something like the above now stocks two brands of organic milk and has added three shelves of organic products.

Before I end this rambling, I'd like to re-iterate something that's in that blurb on the second page that nobody ever reads.

We are a member supported organization and gladly accept artwork, articles, photos, cartoons, poetry, or any other creative endeavor related to forest issues. I'm not sure I could blackmail my son into providing so much art again.

Think Peace! - DW



In this issue of the Clearwater Defender

Four Huge Timber Sales in the Works

A Massive Clay Mine for Latah County?

The Ancient Cedar Project

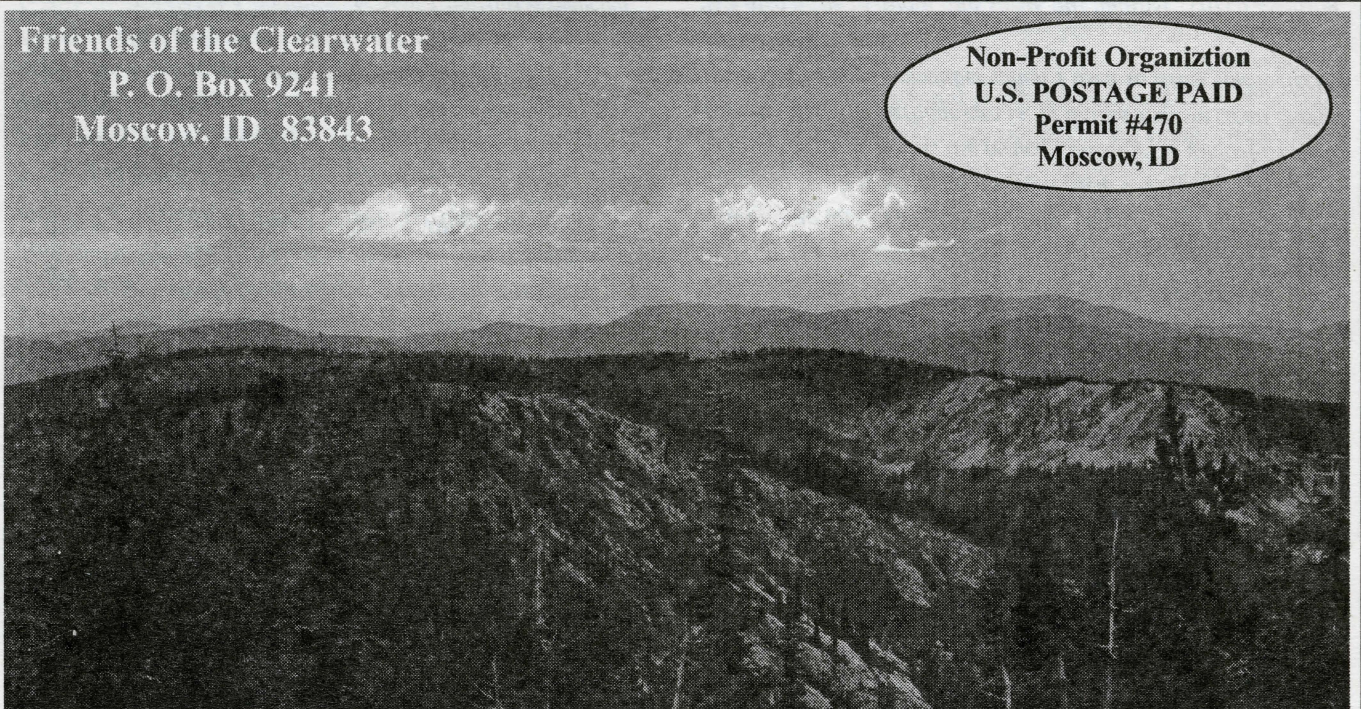
The Running Wolf Powwow

Changes in the Clearwater National Forest

National Forest Protection

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

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A view of Pot Mountain, site of the Middle Black Timber Sale, looking across from Blacklead Mountain
Photo by Chuck Pezeshki