

# Clearwater Defender

## News of the Big Wild

### Friends of the Clearwater

Summer 2002, Vol. 1 No. 5

#### Whew! A busy winter

By Gary Macfarlane

--March 2002, *Snow Slogging on the Palouse Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest*

Poor Larry Dawson. It was the kind of rain that seeps in all directions and every body part, kind of a cold soupy sauna, and the snow was soft, and Chuck wouldn't stop talking. The new supervisor of the Clearwater National Forest was in for a real initiation into North Idaho and the conservation community as we slogged in the White Pine region, going past a bazillion clearcuts. I don't think we made it even to the White Pine timber sale, but it didn't matter because we couldn't see more than a few feet on account of the fog or rain clouds or both. I guess they are actually all the same—clouds and fog ... old clearcuts and these pending White Pine timber sale clearcuts...

FOC board member Chuck Pezeshki and I talked with Larry Dawson about serious problems on the Clearwater National Forest. Of particular concern are three giant timber sales. Middle Black, North Lochsa Face, and West Fork Potlatch have been the focus of attention in the past several weeks; the first two of them may well involve a net loss of wild roadless country on the Clearwater.

The West Fork Potlatch Timber Sale is in the Headwaters of the Potlatch River drainage around Bovill Idaho in eastern Latah County. This watershed is severely damaged but amazingly, a few tough steelhead still manage to make their way from the Snake, run about ten-miles along the Clearwater to the Potlatch River, and then up that river to its headwaters. That's quite a ride.

The Forest Service recently issued a decision on the appeal filed by Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho Conservation League, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Ecology Center, The Lands Council, and American Wildlands challenging this large sale of some 20 million board feet with 15 miles of new road in this drainage. This sale went out for public comment a few years ago and the Forest Service took so long to reach a decision the public forgot about it. Now the Forest Service claims there won't be much problem from the logging and roadbuilding because it will be carefully done and because of restoration projects. Restoration and mitigation can help (other times not so) but since the government has decided the lower four Snake River dams are to remain in place (for now), the agency should reconsider whether to have such large development that threat-

Continued on page 7

1

#### Charter Forests in Idaho?

By Larry McLaud

Mark Rey, current undersecretary of agriculture for the Bush administration and former vice president of the National Forest Products Association, is proposing local control of federal lands. In the 1980's Reagan advocated for a "Sagebrush Rebellion" which would have sold federal lands to private interests. In the 1990's Senator Larry Craig from Idaho and others proposed a bill to give BLM lands to the states. None of these schemes passed, but the idea lives on.

Now the Bush Administration has proposed local control of federal public lands. This idea is the brainchild of industries who are looking to exploit more public resources. Management of public lands based on exclusion of landowners spells trouble for wildlands, clean water, wildlife and the general public.

Idaho will be one of the first states considered for this project because of the politics and the local support for liquidation of public assets. Local control means control by industry at the expense of healthy forests, and constitutes a take-over of public lands.

A recent economic study found employment change in rural counties over the past 25 years has been highly related to natural amenities. Counties low on the amenities scale saw relatively little growth, while high-scoring counties gained an average of three times as many new jobs in 1996 as in 1969.

What does this mean for public forest management in the future? Local control means more logging, fewer amenities for the rural communities and fewer economic opportunities in the future.

The vast majority of the public--current landowners of our public lands--should oppose this change. Not only would there be a loss of wildlands, clean water and wildlife but the taxpayers would also be expected to subsidize timber sales and fix the damage caused from roading and logging. The costs of fire protection and payments to counties would also fall on the taxpayers.

Idaho's Federal Lands Task Force was created by the Idaho legislature to propose areas for local control. Unfortunately the Clearwater and the Nez Perce National Forests have been nominated for takeover. Why this area? Because these public lands still have trees, including some big trees, ripe for liquidation.

Local control of forest lands in Idaho show what we can

Continued on page 6

**Greetings, Friends,** we bring you some summer reading material to look at between your various activities.

Now is the best time to visit Idaho's Big Wild. The Clearwater National Forest offers some of the most beautiful Wild areas left in our lower 48 states. I encourage you all to see for yourself why we are fighting to defend these awesome areas.

Friends of the Clearwater can help pay for your trip to the woods in exchange for your monitoring skills. We need help monitoring campsites in the Gossell-Hump Wilderness Area and off-road vehicle use in the Clearwater NF. We also need help inventorying Ancient Cedar Groves in the Clearwater NF. Call or email our office for more info.

If you are just looking for a place to hike or backpack into, feel free to call or email our office as well. We are happy to suggest some places to see.

When you are out in the woods, tread lightly and be prepared. Remember, you need water. Unfortunately, even in remote places, the water is rarely safe to drink unless filtered through a purifier.

Perhaps you have had a chance to make it into the woods recently, or are planning to do so soon. In any case, remember how fortunate (or unfortunate?) we are to be able to visit some of the last unspoiled ecosystems left on our planet. Let that memory and immersion into Nature inspire you to defend it from further fragmentation.

FOC is blessed to have two dedicated full-time fellows, Gary Macfarlane and Larry McLaud, working hard to insure that 50 years from now our grandchildren can take their kids to the same places that touch our souls today. We thank Gary and Larry for their critical work and thank all our Friends who contribute time and money to our cause. We still have a lot of work to do.  
Garrett Clevenger  
President

## The Clearwater Defender is a publication of:



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

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 Bimerick Meadows by Kristin Ruether

## Thanks for Support

Thanks to the Bullitt Foundation for a very generous grant for our effort to gear up for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest plan revision. Thanks to the Wilburforce Foundation for their continuing support of Friends of the Clearwater. Thanks to Patagonia for funding our efforts to protect the legacy of the Wild Clearwater. The Latah Community Foundation again funded our efforts on behalf of ancient cedars. Friends of the Clearwater is participating in a coalition of grassroots organizations to protect wildlands in the Northern Rockies under the Northern Rockies Forest Defense Coalition. Chuck Pezeshki, an FOC board member, was a catalyst for making this happen with support from the Pew Charitable Trust. Finally, thanks to the New York City Trust for supporting our forest defense work over the past year.

## Changes at F.O.C.

By Gary Macfarlane

At the first of January of this year, Larry McLaud, the long-time North Idaho staff member for the Idaho Conservation League joined Friends of the Clearwater as our Program Director. We were very lucky to have been able to have Larry to come and work for us. Obviously, it wasn't the salary that we are paying him, but rather his love of the Clearwater and Idaho wilderness.

Larry is perhaps the best known conservationist in North Idaho. He is respected by all, even if they don't agree with him. He is a leader in Idaho at building working coalitions which win. The success of the Clearwater lawsuit, brought by the Land and Water Fund on behalf of several organizations, including Friends of the Clearwater, was largely the result of Larry's ability to organize and achieve concrete results.

Larry has jumped in and is working on several projects. He is coordinating our campaign to gear up for the Forest Plan revisions for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests which includes overseeing projects like ORV monitoring, pulling together arguments to stop the idiotic Charter Forests robbery, and coordinating our programs for a wild Clearwater.

Larry received a master's degree from the University of Idaho in Resource Economics and has been an Idaho fixture for more years than he would want to admit. Maybe it is that degree that scares those who would despoil the public wildlands.

I have known Larry for several years. He has a love for the Wilderness that is unequalled. Put a pack on his back and he is at home. Most of all, he is a remarkable human being who possesses a warmth and integrity that is even rarer than the endangered wildlife of the Clearwater.

The past year has been one of change. Eva Jo Hallvik, our Outreach Director, recently resigned to have more time to devote to her massage business and other pursuits. She still volunteers for Friends of the Clearwater. Thanks Eva for your help.

## Idaho Panhandle National Forests: Grandmothers and Garnets

Poor Emerald Creek, poor West Fork St. Maries River. They have been hammered by logging and mining so even the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (sic) considers those streams water quality impaired. They are starting to recover and guess what, two new EISs to stuff them back in their place—The Garnet Stars and Sands Project and the Hidden Cedars EISs. The Forest Service just came out with a decision on Hidden Cedars and conservationists are reviewing that document.

Lucky Grandmother Mountain. This closest roadless area of any size to Moscow, Idaho, has a pack of wolves roaming its flanks. Grandmother Mountain is the headwaters of Marble Creek (a tributary to the St. Joe), tributaries to the St. Maries, and the Little North Fork Clearwater. The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management should recognize the values of this backcountry area and close it to vehicles. Severe damage, including illegal use, is particularly bad on the eastern portion of this wild country—poor Grandmother Mountain.

## Grassroots Radio

By Bob Hoffmann, board member of Radio Free Moscow

Every grassroots movement faces an uphill battle for public attention. Major corporations maintain a stranglehold on the media, and anything that strays far from the corporate line rarely appears in newsprint or on the airwaves. Fortunately, a new rule allows the licensing of small, low-power FM stations for use by nonprofit organizations. Friends of the Clearwater is taking advantage of this new rule through the fiscal sponsorship of Radio Free Moscow.

Radio Free Moscow's mission is to be a nonprofit, listener-supported community radio station serving Moscow, Idaho, and the surrounding areas. RFM is dedicated to broadcasting progressive news and opinions, civic affairs, diverse music and other programming not normally available from mainstream media outlets. Because of the possibility of presenting alternative environmental news via the airwaves, Friends of the Clearwater is excited about assisting in the creation of this alternative media outlet.

To become a member of the Radio Free Moscow community, please send a check to Friends of the Clearwater with "Radio Free Moscow" in the memo field. The mailing address is 704 E. Third St., Moscow, Idaho, 83843. To get involved with the creation of the station contact [radiofreemoscow@hotmail.com](mailto:radiofreemoscow@hotmail.com)

## Palouse Prairie: the endangered ecosystem in our backyard

Here in the rolling hills of the Palouse, we live in one of the most endangered ecosystems in America. The Palouse Prairie, located on the deep, rich, and relatively moist soil of southeastern Washington and adjacent Idaho, is an explosion of wildflowers during its peak in May. Splashed with blooms of all different shades of red, white, pink, purple, blue, and yellow, this meadow steppe community can be down right jaw-dropping in the springtime. However, for the same reasons that the Palouse Prairie is a wildflower haven, it is also some of the best cropland on the planet. Today there is less than 1% of the original Palouse Prairie remaining, and you can count the number of high quality, relatively large remnant patches on one hand.

In an effort to educate Palouse folks about the beautiful, but critically endangered, ecosystem literally in their backyard, the Palouse Group of the Sierra Club led a field trip on Saturday, May 18 to some of the best remnant patches of Palouse Prairie. An amazing variety of wildflowers were seen by the thirty plus people who attended the hike. (ED NOTE: Matt Finer, conservation chair for the Palouse Group of Sierra Club and active member and volunteer with Friends of the Clearwater led the hike. If you are interested in more information about the prairie contact Matt at [mfiner@wsu.edu](mailto:mfiner@wsu.edu)).

## Ancient Cedar Searching

By Ashley Martens

Now more than ever, I long to walk among giant cedars – not on snowshoes, but on the moist ground – through thigh-high lady ferns laden with water droplets that run down my legs and drench my socks. I want to smell the earthy fresh scents of spring as the ancient forest floor comes alive again in the perfect forms of wild ginger, queen's cup bead lily, and bunchberry. I long to hear Brown Creepers sing their high-pitched serenade from the trunk of an ancient cedar, followed by the "zee-zee-zee-tickle-feet!" song of a Townsend's Warbler on a branch above. Soon, soon (we keep telling ourselves), spring is coming, and we need your help with our Ancient Cedars Protection Project (ACPP). We are working toward 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 two main parts:

- 1) Fieldwork – complete inventory of ancient cedar groves on the CNF, NPNF, and St. Joe NF in the summers of 2001-2002
- 2) Policy recommendations – collaborate with USFS, CDC, and other ecologists to write policy recommendations for the management of ancient cedar groves. We will especially work for a hearty protection designation in the new CNF forest plan due out in 2003.

Last year, many amazing volunteers headed out to the Clearwater Forest in search of cedars that had not yet been documented as remnant rare plant communities. We found four new groves! We are currently working with the CDC to add them to their rare plant community database and to start the policy recommendations part of this project.

In summer of 2002, we need volunteers to:

Assist Project Coordinator Ashley Martens with map coordination, database entry, field packet assembly, and other organizational tasks.

Look for ancient cedar groves in the NP Forest and in roadless areas in the Clearwater Forest. The roadless area treasure hunts will be challenging because of the lack of easy-access, but I know we have enough dedicated volunteers out there to rise to the challenge and discover places few have ever seen. So, pull on the boots and packs, and get ready to head out into the beautiful country we call the Big Wild in search of ancient cedars this summer!

*Ancient forests "are as necessary to the forests' diversity and survival as old people are to a culture, to a civilization." –Rick Bass, author of "Winter"*

For more information, contact Ashley Martens at [ashleymart@care2.com](mailto:ashleymart@care2.com) or leave a message at the FOC office, (208) 882-9755.

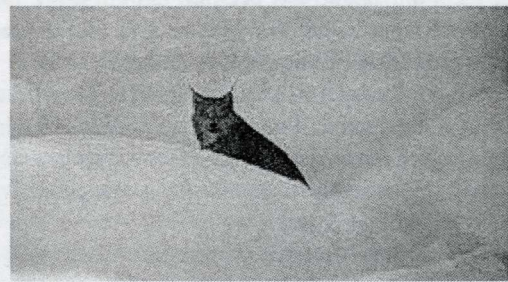
## Monitoring Motorized Madness

Thanks to the volunteers last summer (and those in past summers) who helped monitor off-road vehicle activity in the wildlands of the Clearwater and Nez Perce national Forests. A generous grant from the Fund for Wild Nature and the Natural Trails and Waters Coalition allowed us to monitor the Pot Mountain, Weitas Creek, and Meadow Creek proposed wildernesses and cooperate with the Great Burn Study Group of Missoula Montana to monitor the Great Burn/Kelly Creek proposed wilderness.

Most of the trails in these areas are open to motorized use and they should be closed. Volunteers found resource damage, trails with motorized vehicles which were designed for foot/h hoof travel only, poorly marked trailheads with confusing signs about what kind of vehicles might be allowed on trails, and weeds.

Reports have been prepared and sent to the Forest Service about last year's findings. We should have the report posted on the web at [www.wildrockies.org/foc](http://www.wildrockies.org/foc) in the next few weeks.

Funding for this year is available so if you would like to help the Mallard-Larkins and Grandmother Mountain areas stay wild and earn a free camping trip to boot, please contact the FOC office at 208-882-9755



## Lynx Sightings

By Gary Macfarlane

There have been many recent unconfirmed sightings of lynx in Clearwater country. About ten years ago some dead lynx turned up near Bovill on the Palouse Ranger District, unfortunate but sure confirmation. Thanks to the sharp eyes and quick camera of Clearwater National Forest biologist Dan Davis, we now have good confirmation lynx are still with us (see photo).

Interestingly, the lynx Dan Davis spotted was in an area the Forest Service erroneously does not consider lynx habitat and is outside of the agency's draft lynx analysis units. We have feared, with apparent justification, that the Forest Service has failed to include all important lynx habitat in North Idaho in their mapping.

For example, much of the nearby North Lochsa Face area is outside the mapped lynx units even though recent sightings of lynx have been reported for the area. This part of the Lochsa drainage is also crucial spawning grounds, is important treaty grounds for the Nez Perce Tribe, and contains remote portions of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Yet the Forest Service proposes massive logging for the area (see article "Whew" on page 1).

In any case, it's exciting to know lynx, wolves, wolverines, and bull trout still call the Clearwater wildlands home. Let's keep these lands wild!

## Wild Washington Campaign: *Help protect some of the last wild forests in eastern Washington*

By Matt Finer

Quick, what's the closest Wilderness area to the Palouse? Nope, not the Selway-Bitterroot of Idaho, but the amazing Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness in the Blue Mountains of south-east Washington and northern Oregon. The Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness is a land of rugged canyons, big fish, and abundant wildlife, a geological and biological treasure in our backyard.

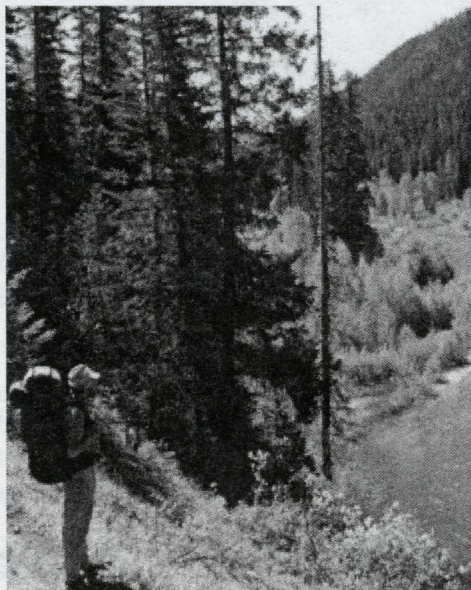
However, the Wilderness is not yet complete. Surrounding the Wilderness, amidst the heavily logged landscape of the Umatilla National Forest, remain several large areas of wild, but unprotected forest. These Roadless Areas are some of the wildest country left in Washington state; they are beautiful and diverse, they support spring chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, deer, and elk, they are home to several unique plant communities, and they deserve long-term protection.

The Palouse Group of the Sierra Club is now joining forces with the Wild Washington Campaign in an effort to protect these vital National Forest Roadless Areas as Wilderness. The goal, in a nutshell, is to get an Eastern Washington Wilderness Bill through Congress. And in order to do that, the challenge is to convince Representative Nethercutt that eastern Washington voters indeed want more Wilderness, for the sake of biodiversity, recreation, a diversified economy, and a rejuvenating natural wonderland for present and future Americans. This is where you all come in.

The Wild Washington Campaign is a state-wide effort to protect the last remaining wild areas of *our* National Forests. The Campaign has great momentum on the west side of the state, with Senator Murray leading the charge alongside several environmentally minded Representatives. On the east side, however, it's a whole different ballgame.

If anyone is interested in helping this campaign, please contact Matt Finer by email ([mfiner@wsu.edu](mailto:mfiner@wsu.edu)) or telephone (509-332-7333).

*Weitas Creek  
Proposed  
Wilderness,  
Clearwater  
National  
Forest*



## Soaring over the Nez Perce National Forest

By Gary Macfarlane

Chuck Pezeshki was up in the air, circling and twisting over the Gospel Hump Wilderness, in a small airplane, photographing illegal snowmobile use in the Wilderness. For me, there is nothing worse than being in an airplane and the sickness and panic it brings. Slogging through the Clearwater, or Gospel Hump for that matter, on snowshoes is fun, even if it is raining.

Thankfully, Chuck made it back with some telling photos of illegal snowmobile tracks in the Wilderness. The Forest Service has known about this for some time but can't seem to catch the offenders. This year, the illegal use he documented was on the western half of the Wilderness, around Pyramid Point and Moores Lake. It is past time the Forest Service closes the 444 road to Square Mountain because either side of the road corridor is designated wilderness and snowmobilers, it seems, can't resist the temptation to violate Wilderness.

To the West of the Gospel Hump is the site of a giant proposed timber sale, Clean Slate. This sale could go into the North Fork Slate Creek roadless area. The Forest Service is expected to issue a decision on this sale soon. There is a good chance that the roadless portion of the giant sale will be dropped, but it still does not make logging in this important salmon and steelhead habitat a good idea.

North of Slate Creek is the proposed Burnt Flat salvage sale. Recently Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho Sporting Congress, the Ecology Center, and Alliance for the Wild Rockies, challenged this sale in court. We are represented by Liz Mitchell of the Western Environmental Law Center. Logging after a fire threatens watersheds. Even Forest Service researchers have concluded there is no positive ecological benefit from post-fire logging.

The Stewardship demonstration project on Meadow Face has turned ugly as reported in the last newsletter. The good parts of the project (road closures and stream rehabilitation) are more than offset by all the logging from a watershed standpoint.

Finally, there is an all out assault on the Red River country (the upper South Fork Clearwater). The lodgepole pine forests see cyclical infestation of mountain pine beetle—a natural event—and the kill em to save em crowd (logging industry) is putting pressure on the Forest Service to put up a bunch of sales in the fragile watershed. Because of past roadbuilding, mining, and logging, the area has not recovered to meet forest plan standards.

Chuck's still fired up even after the last flight. He is a professional photographer, after all, and is ready to take on the next challenge, getting all of us together for outdoor photos.

NOTE: FOC is monitoring campsites in the Gospel Hump Wilderness this year to help the Forest Service's wilderness ranger. If you would like an expenses paid vacation to this great area, contact the FOC office at 882-9755!

# Historic Opportunity for Bull Trout and Water Conservation

By the Alliance for the Wild Rockies

As part of a federal court approved settlement agreement resolving a lawsuit between Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Friends of the Wild Swan, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), the FWS is beginning the process for designation of bull trout critical habitat in the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest states. This may well be the most far-reaching analysis of habitat for a listed species in the entire history of the Endangered Species Act.

The bull trout critical habitat process is a great opportunity. As a primary indicator of water quality, recovery of viable bull trout populations holds enormous potential for maintaining and increasing our quality of life and economic prosperity.

Application of the best available law and conservation biology can demonstrate the vitality and efficacy of the Endangered Species Act and provide a model for other regions to follow. Watershed health looms ever larger as a major public health concern. Water supply and quality are issues which are reaching crucial and in fact, central importance in regional planning in the semi-arid interior mountain region and the high population density Northwest.

## Charter Forests in Idaho?

Continued from page one

expect if the Charter Forest idea becomes law, essentially privatizing land currently managed by the federal government on behalf of all Americans. Private forest lands are for the most part, cutover. The water quality is poor; few sensitive species live on these lands. Old growth forests are basically gone. Do we want the federal public lands to follow suit? Looking from the air at the management patterns written on the land in Idaho, you will see roads, landslides and clearcuts on private lands under local control. By contrast, a look at National Forest lands will show generally more intact forests.

Two pilot stewardship projects are ongoing in North Central Idaho. The Meadow Face proposal on the Nez Perce National Forest has been taken over by the radical right wing group, the Watchmen on the Wall, that wants to greatly increase logging in the area. The Middle Black project on the Clearwater National Forest would log the Pot Mountain proposed Wilderness area. The local group is proposing building even more roads and ATV trails and increasing logging in the North Fork of the Clearwater River.

The largest landowner in the United States is the American people through their national government. Included are 280,000 square miles of public forest administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Americans love these public lands and must continue to be part of their management.

What can you do? First, go visit private lands and see for yourself. Tell your friends and neighbors about this bad proposal. Tell anyone who will listen about the expected results from this scheme. Write letters to the editor of newspapers and decision makers about your opinions on this plan. Tell them you want public lands protected and restored, not trashed.

## Support The Bull Trout Commitment!

**The Bull Trout Commitment** is a citizen plan for Bull Trout recovery based on the best available science and economic analysis. At the heart of this plan are the **Five C's** of essential habitat needs of bull trout.

### The Five Cs of Bull Trout Recovery:

- 1 Clean**-Bull trout are the most sensitive to changes in water quality of the threatened and endangered fish species, particularly from fine sediments generated by logging and grazing activities. Critical habitat protection includes standards to control lethal sediments.
- 2 Cold**-Bull trout also require colder water than other native fish. Habitat protection efforts must seek to maintain or reacquire natural cold water conditions.
- 3 Complex**-Critical habitat for bull trout isn't just a set of places, but rather a complex arrangement of environmental conditions. Science-based standards are needed to ensure critical habitat objectives are met, including indices for water temperature, fine sediment levels, shade, and riparian area protection. Intact forests, which provide bank stability, shade and woody debris for formation and maintenance of pool habitat, are also essential.
- 4 Connected**-The sciences of conservation biology and conservation genetics show that bull trout have naturally occurred throughout the Northern Rockies and Northwest in a system of connected watersheds comprising migratory metapopulations of bull trout. Blockages to historic migration routes, both physical and thermal, must be addressed to provide access to spawning streams and protect the genetic integrity of the bull trout. Historically occupied, but currently unoccupied habitat must also be protected to reconnect the bull trout populations throughout their range.
- 5 Comprehensive**-The assessment and protection of bull trout critical habitat must be accomplished on a range wide basis, encompassing all current and historic bull trout range in the lower 48 states.

**Scientific studies show the critical importance of roadless watersheds to bull trout survival. These are the last strongholds. However, critical habitat cannot be limited to these areas. Roadless areas are the foundation for recovery, but connections between these isolated headwaters and main stem rivers and lakes must also be included.**

(Friends of the Clearwater is a member group of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies. We will keep you updated as this project unfolds. Congratulations to AWR and Friends of the Wild Swan for their stunning court victories on behalf of bull trout).

## Whew! A busy winter

Continued from page one

ens watershed quality in already stressed drainages with steelhead and salmon.

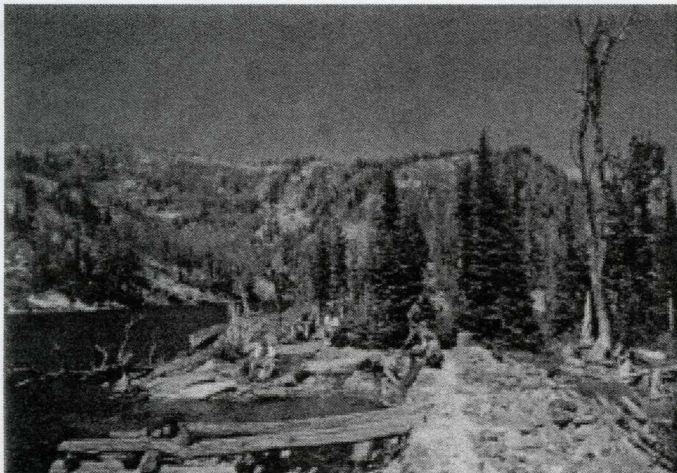
The two big roadless sales on the Clearwater, Middle Black and North Lochsa Face received a lot of interest. In fact, the Forest Service called the interest "intense." Keep the letters going: who knows, public input may convince the Forest Service not to log in roadless areas.

We recently appealed the Walton Fire Salvage. While this sale is not large, it would intrude into the roadless land that was once part of the Selway Primitive Area and is on steep sensitive slopes. A decision on the appeal is expected soon. Interestingly, the fire started on Plum Creek land during the past summer, apparently by logging equipment and spread to the Clearwater National Forest.

Speaking of Plum Creek, Forest Service law enforcement officers are investigating some instances where logging has slopped over from Plum Creek land onto the Clearwater National Forest. Supervisor Larry Dawson was quoted in the Missoulian (the paper from Missoula, MT) as saying: "I believe the public has a right to know that the Forest Service is protecting the public lands," he said, "and part of that protection is when we become aware of violations, whether it is one tree or a thousand trees, and whether it is a private individual or a corporation, we will investigate unauthorized timber removal. I make no apologies for doing our job."

That is indeed encouraging, the Forest Service doing its job. Let's hope the agency does its job and becomes committed to protecting roadless areas as the new Chief, Dale Bosworth, has said it would.

Back to the hike, er slog, . . . well, it didn't stop raining, the snow stayed soft and sloppy, and Chuck didn't stop talking. Larry was wet, Gary was wet, and Chuck was wet and talking. Some things never change.



## Motorized Vehicles in the Wilderness? Keeping the Selway-Bitterroot Wild!

By Gary Macfarlane

Friends of the Clearwater teamed up with Wilderness Watch and appealed a decision to allow motorized vehicles into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness to conduct maintenance on a tiny dam built decades ago with hand tools. We requested that the Forest Service meet us at the site for the appeal resolution meeting.

The Forest Service decided to take us up on our offer to hike 6 miles into the Wilderness. George Nickas from Wilderness Watch, Gary Macfarlane from Friends of the Clearwater, District Ranger Jeanne Higgins, and other Forest Service staff people found that much of the analysis in the government's EA was inaccurate about the condition of the trail and whether humans or pack animals could bring in materials on foot. The District Ranger agreed to drop the decision and not allow motorized access because it was unneeded. We had volunteered to arrange for people to pack in materials but that proved unnecessary, as a few pack animals brought in the small amount of equipment and materials needed for the repairs and maintenance.

This decision should be a precedent for the future as well as reaffirm the in the Agency's mind what the Wilderness Act is about.

Thanks to Wilderness Watch and George Nickas for leading the charge in protecting what should already be protected. (For more information about Wilderness issues, see the Summer 2001 edition of Wild Earth and an article, authored by George Nickas and Gary Macfarlane, Wilderness: Keep it Wild! You can contact Wilderness Watch, PO Box 9175, Missoula, MT 59807; 406-542-2048; [www.wildernesswatch.org](http://www.wildernesswatch.org))

*photo Holloway Lake, a natural lake whose outflow is regulated by a tiny dam and headgate, Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, See article above*

**Help protect the wild Clearwater by joining Friends of the Clearwater today!** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$15 - Living Lightly

- \$25 - Basic Membership

- \$100 - Forest Supporter

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please send me the newsletter.

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## Calendar of Events

**August 3, Lookout Peak Hike, Grandmother Mountain Proposed Wilderness. Meet at Rosauers parking lot in Moscow at 7:00 AM.**

**August 17 and 18, Pot Mountain Trip overnight (car camp and day hike). Meet at Moscow's Rosauers parking lot in Moscow at 8:00 AM.**

**August 24 and 25, in Winchester, the Second Annual Running Wolf Pow Wow, sponsored by Wolf Education Research Center.**

**September 7 and 8, Gospel Hump Hike & over night backpack. Meet at Rosauers parking lot in Moscow at 8:00 AM for carpooling.**

