

# Clearwater Defender

News of the Big Wild

Friends of the Clearwater

Spring 2003, Vol. 1 No. 7, Issued Quarterly

## It's "Home Sweet Home" in the Big Wild

By Leslie Einhaus

I initially got involved with the Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) as a means to work through my grief. My father passed away in September 2000. He was an avid backpacker, wildlife photographer, and FOC member. I thought getting involved on a grassroots level would keep me connected to him on some level. And it has. Through FOC, I have also gained new friendships, added to my recipe file (*thanks to the delicious entrees at our potlucks*), heightened my *own* love of the land and become an spirited advocate for the Big Wild.

After a long stint as a life insurance agent, my dad spent the last decade of his life doing what truly made him happy – roaming the wild country of Idaho and Montana, taking photographs of the creatures and landscapes he loved. He also spent time debating with numerous Forest Service officials and politicians, writing plenty of appeals and letters to the editor and attending public hearings – always anxious to speak out for the preservation of places like the Clearwater National Forest.

I knew he did all of these things, but I wasn't aware of what an impact he made in this part of the country. I learned an important lesson.

A Clearwater district ranger approached me before a Friends of the Clearwater-sponsored event a year or so ago. After introducing myself to several people, the ranger stepped up, shook my hand, and asked, "Are you Bob's daughter?" I nodded, amazed. "I knew Bob. He was a good man. He called me quite a bit," he said, smiling. "We got into our share of disagreements over land management."

Just days after my father passed away, a fellow activist wrote a letter to the editor to the Lewiston Morning Tribune. Kent Henderson wrote: "Bob Einhaus was one of those folks who come(s) to Idaho from somewhere else and fall(s) in love with the place. ...His devotion to his adopted state put many natives to shame. ...Idaho lost a champion."

Continued on page 5

## Moving Toward a Defensible Lynx Conservation Strategy?

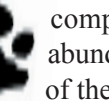
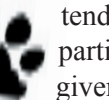
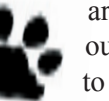
By Lynne Nelson

There are historic records of lynx occurrence in 24 states. Generally, verified records (through trapping, hunting, sightings, etc) extend to the mid 1800s, however, as one may suspect some states kept consistent records, where others did not. Gaps in record keeping have led some to believe that lynx were never prominent in our Clearwater country. One undisputed observation made by biologists Kevin McKelvey and Keith Aubry is that significant lynx occurrences have shrunk from 24 to about 16 states over the last 50 years. The reasons for decline are multifactorial. According to biologists Steven Buskirk, Leonard Ruggerio and Charles Krebs, habitat fragmentation and interspecific competition are two important factors. Fragmentation operates by direct habitat loss, behavioral disturbance from roads, changes in landscape features such as edges, and human caused mortalities. In addition, a fragmented habitat provides small islands of populations that will only be stable as a metapopulation. Metapopulations are dependant upon movement of individuals into and out of the island. These small populations are subject to a variety of risks (shifts in food sources, changes in landscape, stress induced dispersal) and are prone to extinction. This is the classic extinction route for animals who gradually lose their habitat. Sound familiar?

The second significant factor in lynx decline is exploitative competition. This competition involves increasing encroachment of general predators beyond their normal ranges. Habitat fragmentation and roading tend to facilitate competition by generalistic predators, particularly the coyote. Although not their typical prey, given access, coyotes have been shown to take snowshoe hare at a greater rate than lynx. (Buskirk et al, 1999; O'Donoghue et al 1998; Todd et al 1981). Of the major competitors, coyote, bobcat, and cougar, all are more abundant within the southern distribution (lower 48 states) of the lynx than 50 years ago.

So one may wonder, with the body of knowledge con-

Continued on page 2



## Lynx Cont. from page one

nected to a species' decline, why can't actions be taken to improve viable habitat opportunities or at minimum, do no more harm to the habitat that persists (i.e., North Lochsa Face management project). The answers are very convoluted. Society often presumes that 1) solutions to these problems have unequivocal answers, 2) the answers will always require some form of land action, and 3) that land managers will find the single action needed to solve the problem. Unfortunately, many may fail to realize that natural ecological processes evolve on many complex interconnected levels and one distinct action (logging, burning, etc) will not begin to suffice as a solution. In addition, when little is known about a species of concern (such as the lynx in the Clearwater region), the 'burden of proof' typically rests upon the conservation community. Land managers often continue to move plans forward until such 'proof' is so obvious that substantial, irreversible harm has occurred. All too commonly, land management decisions are justified through narrow vision.

So what is our conservation strategy for lynx in the Clearwater region? Is it the same ole' burden of proof is on the conservationists while the Clearwater habitat is further 'managed' and fragmented? This is a good question to pose to our Forest Supervisor of the Clearwater NF. What is our plan? Above all, it is defensible? What will you say when our children ask, where is the big cat? It will be a shame to have to say, we didn't have proof the lynx was disappearing and then one day, it was gone.

Suggested Reading



Drawing by: Carmen Lindsley

Buskirk SW, Ruggerio LF, Krebs CJ. Fragmentation and interspecific competition: implications for lynx conservation. In: Ruggerio LF, Aubry KB, Buskirk SW, et al. Ecology and conservation of lynx in the United States. University Press of Colorado, Boulder CO, 2000.

Knight RL, Cole DN. Wildlife responses and recreationists. In: Knight RL, Gutzwiller eds. Wildlife and Recreationists- coexistence through management and research. Island Press, Washington, D.C. 1995, p 51-69.

McKelvey KS, Aubry KB, Ortega YK. History and distribution of lynx in the contiguous United States. In: Ruggerio LF, Aubry KB, Buskirk SW, et al. Ecology and conservation of lynx in the United States. University Press of Colorado, Boulder CO, 2000.

McKelvey KS, Aubry KB, Ortega YK. Lynx conservation in an ecosystem management context. In: Ruggerio LF, Aubry KB, Buskirk SW, et al. Ecology and conservation of lynx in the U.S. University Press of Colorado, Boulder CO, 2000.

### The Clearwater Defender is a publication of:



s of the Clearwater  
x 9241

icow, ID 83843

08) 882-9755

wildrockies.org

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

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, poems, stories and articles. Items published in the Clearwater Defender do not necessarily reflect the views of Friends of

#### F.O.C. Board of Directors:

Josh Burnim	Chris Norden
Garrett Clevenger	Leslie Einhaus
Erika Cunningham	Kelly Kingsland
Levi J.Holt	Kelly Racicot
Jeff Juel	Greg Golberg
Lynne Nelson	

Forest Watch Director (vol): Gary Macfarlane

Program Director: Larry McLaud

Education/Outreach Director: Ashley Martens

CD Layout: David Willard and Kelly Racicot

Lynx tracks on cover by: Peggy Sue McRae

## Friends of the Clearwater Focus Groups

Friends of the Clearwater conducted two focus groups in Moscow and one in Lewiston. These were informal groups aimed at listening to main-stream people in two of the groups. The third group was made up of known conservationists. Comparing and contrasting the responses hopefully will help us understand differences of opinions.

Focus groups are interviews of 5 to 10 people at the same time in the same group. It is an opportunity for citizens to express opinions on questions asked by a facilitator. The information gathered can help in understanding peoples' opinions.

The goal of these focus groups is to develop compelling and persuasive language to build support for the upcoming Revisions to the Forest Plans for the Idaho Panhandle, Clearwater and Nez Perce National forests.

Many people expressed a dichotomy of opinion on pressures put on public lands. There was an underlying concern for population growth and recreation growth on public lands. The freedom to use public lands is being compromised by these pressures. Government regulations are seen as good and/or evil by some. Many people like to blame public land managers for changes that affect their use of the public lands, regardless of the reasons.

People with first hand knowledge of the land said, "The more I saw how National Forests were treated then I see need for regulations." They are more aware of adverse impacts from development. They also were more interested in being part of the planning process.

People's visions for the future include leaving much of federal lands alone. "I like it the way it is," is a common reply by many Idahoans. People fear the future because they think it means change. People resist large change either in size, or shift in economic activity. Many people do not understand that leaving things the way they are will bring changes they might not like.

Many people think public lands are a very valuable asset. Public lands provide good neighbors, free access, wildlife, clean water, clean air, solitude, and recreation opportunities. Protecting these lands will protect their quality of life.

The Off Road Vehicle (ORV) issue appears to be a freedom issue. People expressed the need for freedom from noise, pollution and lazy people. The public has motorized access widely available through thousands of miles of open roads and trails. Many people expressed concern about the lack of balance of recreation opportunities that favor motorized use.

Individuals commented that they have a responsibility to their community and future generations for responsible management of public land. Many citizens feel they have the privilege of use as long as they do not significantly degrade the resources.

Much of the public perceives the Forest Service as generally a good manager of public lands. Most people think the problems with the Forest Service are tied to budget limitations. Others expressed concern over planning and implementing projects and lack of listening to public concerns. The public identified a need for more and better education on environmental issues.

Listening to the public is important way for Friends of the Clearwater and all conservationists to better understand public knowledge and opinion on natural resource issues. We learned a lot from the focus groups and thank all those who participated.

### A SOLDIER'S STORY

How am I going to tell

The world about what I've done?

How am I going to tell

My children 'bout the foreign sun?

A country torn by war

America comes screaming through  
the open door

Drops tanks and troops and guns  
and bombs

We had to say goodbye to our loved  
ones, our dads and moms.

How am I going to tell

My parents about the lives I take?

How am I going to tell

God why he shouldn't forsake?

They gave me a gun,

When I turned eighteen.

Sent me under the desert sun,

To begin basic training.

I defended my country

And destroyed another

Killed a son

He had a father, a mother.

How am I going to tell

A Soldier's Story.

© Nick Henderson, 2003

*(ed. note: Nick is a high school student in Moscow, Idaho. The Defender welcomes and encourages submissions)*

# National Forest Management Act of 1976- An Overview

By A. G. Holmquist

In 1976, Congress passed the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), which specified the basic rules and regulations the National Forests use to manage public lands. There was acknowledgement that resource supply and demand was dynamic and needed to be periodically reviewed. NFMA largely amended previous Acts of Congress, such as the Knudsen-Vandenberg Act of 1930 (One provision of this act mandated planting trees within 5 years of clear cutting), the Multiple-Use, Sustained Yield Act of 1960, and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Act of 1974, among others.

Section 2 of this Act calls upon the USFS to be a leader in resource conservation and to develop and encourage recycling of forest resources.

Sections 3 and 4 direct the Secretary of Agriculture to report to Congress on such topics as forest products diversification, efficiency, forest health, and reforestation. Detailed timber stand analysis were required and Congress was to receive regular reports on the costs of reforestation and other operations.

To comply with the NFMA, all National Forests and Grasslands were required to prepare Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP's). These ten to fifteen year plans are now in the process of being revised as the first such Forest Plans are expiring.

Section 6, while laying the framework for the LRMP's, requires a minimum of three months of public scrutiny before their enactment, with public hearings in various locations. Section 6 also requires the USFS to actively manage resources for optimum production, under multiple use standards. However, "the harvesting system to be used is not selected primarily because it will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output of timber".

NFMA requires that resources be managed so as to not damage soil, slopes, and watersheds irreversibly. The Secretary of Agriculture is required to identify lands not suitable for timber harvest and review their status at least every ten years.

Environmental Impact Statements are to be done in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

NFMA requires that timber harvest roads be returned to their natural states of slope, vegetation, etc. within ten years after harvest, unless the roads are to become part of the National Forest road system. Timber companies are required to construct roads required for harvest, although small companies can request that the Forest Service do the road building and be reimbursed for it.

The National Forests were to be managed for sustained yield for timber harvests.

NFMA amends the rules governing payments to schools and the acquisition of land and the exchange of lands. The Secretary of Agriculture is required to provide forecasts of projected payments to the states for budgetary purposes.

The National Forest Management Act of 1976, and Environmental Laws such as the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, etc., and the aforementioned acts govern the management of the U.S. Forest Service.

# Wildlands Issues Colloquium, Spring 2003:

*So, you say you love wilderness, roadless areas, and the wild...*

The Wildlands Issues Colloquium is a public forum that addresses social and ecological issues facing wildlands at scales extending from local to international. Students, faculty, special interest groups, federal and state agency representatives, politicians, and citizens discuss issues that are relevant to all citizens who live in the West.

Questions: contact Greg Gollberg at 885-9756 or email [gollberg@uidaho.edu](mailto:gollberg@uidaho.edu)

**"The Politics of Breaching the Lower Snake River Dams – Social and Biological Concerns."** A series of two presentations. **April 22 and 23 7:00 PM University of Idaho's College of Law Courtroom.**

**April 22**, Social Concerns--a panel moderated by U of I Politic Science Professor, **Pat Wilson.**

**Paul Hirt**, WSU Professor, Environmental history

**Les Wiggins**, Whitman County

**Elmer Crow**, Nez Perce Tribe

**Bert Bowler**, Idaho Rivers United

**April 23**, Biological Concerns--a panel moderated by U of I Politic Science Professor, **Pat Wilson.**

**John McKern**, Fish Passage Solutions

**Sharon Kiefer**, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

**Charlie Petrosky**, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

**Charles Hudson**, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission

**Ken Casavant**, WSU Professor, Agri-

## the problem with having an ape as President

Primates can point fingers and scream something akin to: *Evil!* or boast their own ethical attributes. Pre-cognizants can press red buttons, make an “X” where they’re told it would be prudent, express sincere consolation or hop about while clapping & hooting as the ticker-tape death-toll unrolls.



Dress him in unwrinkled suits, match his socks, give him the gift of plausible deniability and even an ape can usher in a new age of unprecedented environmental degradation. Just fill his lifelong childhood with nothing except gray = green, get the right companies to fund the campaign and lead him up over the hump of the next election.



But they’re all busy being useful to zoos or to Science; in cages, covering sad faces with their hairy hands, peeking every now and again through split fingers at new, intensified manifestations of the same, old horrors—which the lab monitor scoffs at in-between disinterested glances at a magazine poll, her feet propped on a desk, tuned-in to late-night CNN.



Clark Karoses



## Home Sweet Home (Cont. from page one)

I learned that every-day things, like chatting with Forest Service officials, writing letters, and walking along the trail with family and friends can make a difference and a lasting impact.

There are many people in Idaho and other states that love the landscape as much as my dad did, but for some reason they are not willing to step up and save it. Developing a passion to protect the Big Wild is key! Without a dedicated contingent of supporters, the place will deteriorate. These places could eventually become part of a museum display with the exhibit reading: *What We Used to Have...*

We can't let that happen.

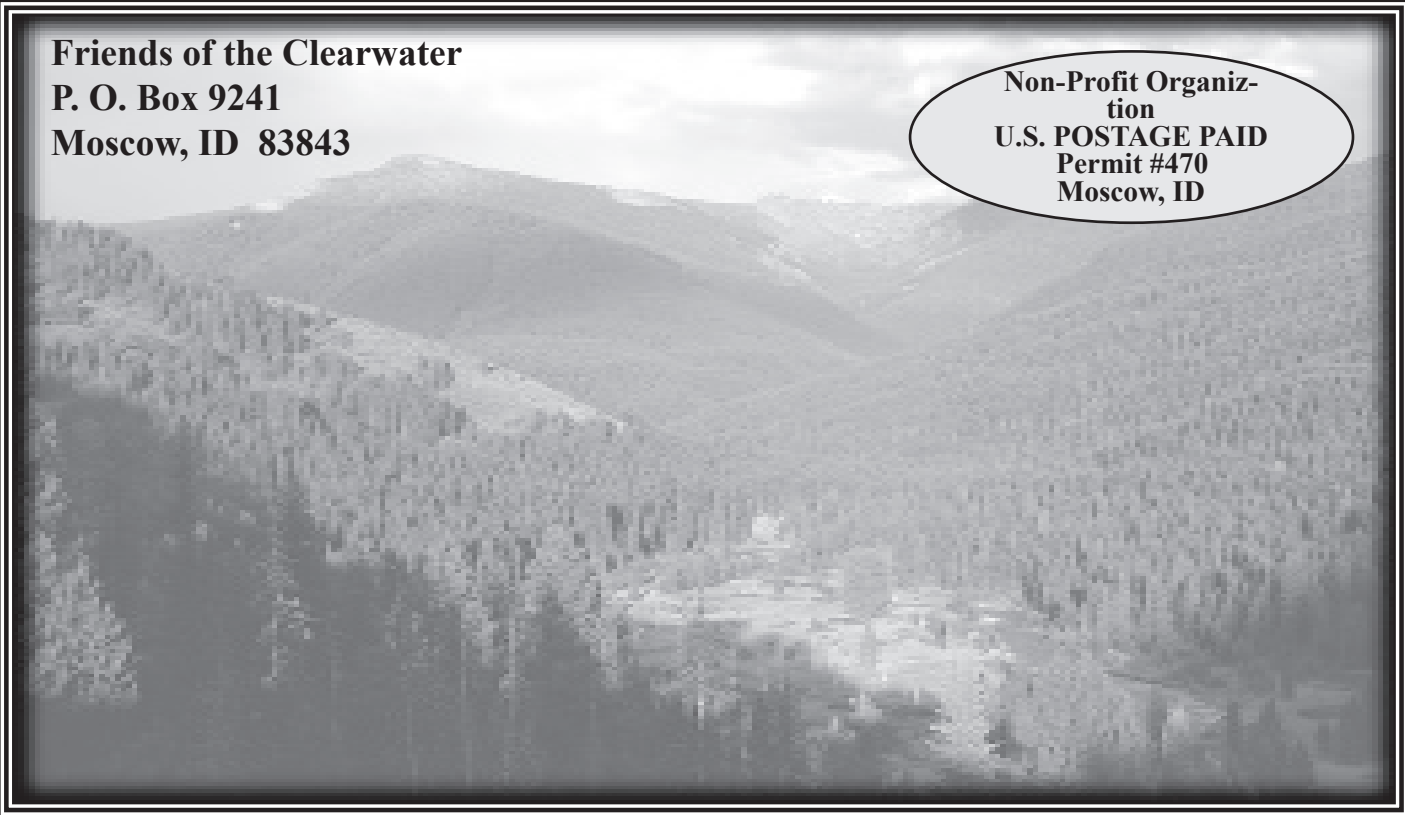
The members of the Friends of the Clearwater are dedicated to not letting this happen in Idaho's Big Wild. After my first meeting with the group, I was in awe of their passion for the wild country. I attended snowshoeing trips, slideshow presentations, educational panels, a powwow, and numerous potlucks. More and more I began to champion the cause with greater and greater fervor – hiking the trails, writing letters to the editor, and not just because my Dad did. I saw the story unfold myself – in the banter among members, in the river, in the treetops, and among the creatures that call the Clearwater *home*.

It is our home, too. We need to make sure it stays intact. The Idaho backcountry needs as many *backers* as it can get. Some of the smallest acts add up and make an impact. *Go to it.* Get on the FOC mailing list by calling 882-9755. Start making a difference.

*Leslie Einhaus is a writer at the University of Idaho. She enjoys backpacking and snowshoeing in Idaho's Big Wild. Leslie lives in Moscow with her "kid," a Chocolate Lab pup named Bridger.*

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

**Non-Profit Organization**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**Permit #470**  
**Moscow, ID**



## Friends of the Clearwater EcoEvents Calendar

### **Ralph Nader Speaks in Pullman**

- 7:30 pm, Thursday, April 17th at Beasley Coliseum, WSU

### **Wildlands Colloquium**

- 7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 22th at Law Courtroom, U of I
- 7:00 pm, Wednesday, April 23rd at Law Courtroom, U of I  
(see inside for more details)

### **Forest Birds Field Trip**

- 8 am, Saturday, April 26, meet at Rosaur's parking lot to car-pool.
- Join Ashley to search for songbirds on Moscow Mountain. We'll get to know these avian beauties by sight and sound & learn about forest bird conservation. Binoculars highly recommended.

### **Predator Puppets on Parade and Food Booth at the Moscow Renaissance Fair!**

- Saturday & Sunday May 3rd and 4th.
- The 30th anniversary parade is Saturday at 4:00 pm, meet by the stage at 3:30.
- Please sign up to volunteer some time at our food booth.

### **International Migratory Bird Day.**

- Saturday, May 10, Friendship Square.
- Activities and experiences all day at the Fountain across from the Farmer's Market.

### **Hiking the *Original* Lewis & Clark Trail.**

- Friday Evening-Sunday, June 13-15
- Hike with long-time Clearwater residents and historical experts Gene & Mollie Eastman along the *original* Lewis & Clark trail near Fish Creek & Dollar Ridge. Day hikes from base camp and evening talks.
- Call FOC to reserve your spot on the trip today! Limit 25.

For more information about FOC, any of our events, or to sign up for our weekly email list, please contact us at 882-9755 or [foc@wildrockies.org](mailto:foc@wildrockies.org).