

Clearwater Defender

News of the Big Wild

Friends of the Clearwater

Fall 2005, Vol. 3 No. 2

Wild Rockies Rendezvous 2005-Wilderness Gateway, Idaho

by Chris Norden

The late September rain kept coming down harder and harder, and it got progressively colder, and we all had a great time at the 2005 Wild Rockies Rendezvous, Sept. 23-25 at Wilderness Gateway campground up on the Lochsa river, about halfway between Lewiston and Missoula on Hwy. 12. Plenty of good news to



Rendezvous 2005 participants, warm and wild

ing an injunction halting the Forest Lochsa Face sham ect. Restoring and a forest by cutting does this bring to dred thousand or now free to enjoy for the fact that Oops, getting podon't blame me; fault, the Cows who rocked us Saturday night. the fire was blaz-freshment flowed sang about CEO's American citizens speak out for what is

temporarily Service's North restoration proj-"healthying" up it down-why mind the hun-so Iraqis who are democracy, but they're dead? litical again, but it's Dana Lyons' with Guns guy, out of our boots It was cold, and ing, and the re-freely, and Dana and oil and

we all got pretty damn inspired. Mike Bader's Missoula-based blues band did the honors Friday night, and they were great too.

The real heroes of the weekend, in my book, were the Moscow-based Seeds of Peace, who provided killer vegetarian/vegan food throughout the whole event-breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Veggie tofu scramble and hash browns for breakfast, with some hot sauce, and hot cakes on the side..better than the Keystone in Eugene, which is saying a lot if you've been to the Keystone! The women and men of Seeds are saints, hard-core non-violent activists who provide food for other non-violent activists participating in protests and other activist events. No wonder the Feds find them so spooky and worrisome, as witness the various harassments they've been subject to in New York, Washington DC, and elsewhere. Giving free food to people who are committed to peaceful regime change, what a radical and beautiful idea! Probably wigs them out doubly to consider the Biblical overtones.

who stand up and right and good, and

Wild Rockies Rendezvous, from Page 1

Honors also go to Friends of the Clearwater, which by unofficial count has the best turnout of all the involved groups at 17, which includes babies but not dogs. Muscovite canines Hoops and Jake shared the best-behaved dog award. Now lest you think this was simply a great and very fun late-season campout and party at the edge of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, I should also note that this was a sort of summit meeting, involving staff and members from over a dozen sister groups spread out across Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. A very cool gentleman even came up from California, and talked about some of the work he does in urban and poorer communities advocating for wilderness and wild lands. Vital work!

The business aspect of this summit took place hearthside, with a huge circle of activists discussing several related questions, including recent successes, the future of the environmental movement, the future of wilderness and wild



Wilderness Champion Stuart Brandborg

America, and the possibility of new wilderness in Idaho (and at what cost). Lots of familiar faces and well-known names, including singer

Carole King, 1964 Wilderness Act co-author Stewart Brandborg, and Montana old-timer and personality Howie Wolke. But the real work of the weekend was shared equally by all, each of us trying to answer the never-ending question: How can we maintain and nurture our sense 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.

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Sheep Creek in the River of No Return Wilderness

Cove Mallard - Ten Years Later By Uncle Ramon

Ten years? Well, the Campaign started in 1992 and ended, sort of, in 1998 (or '99? '00?), so ten years is about the average, sort of.

So what exactly has transpired since then that caused the editors of your Defender to ask me to type an update? Well nothing.

However, when it comes to preserving Wilderness, Nothing... capital "N" Nothing... is definitely something to write home about. No logging. No road building. No Nothing.

Just trees growing (and some burning) and critters thriving and back-country trekkers happy and berry-pickers giddy, and yes, even fisher folk fishing and hunters hunting. Just a whole lotta Nothing going on.

The downside, of course, is that we also get Nothing from the Big Media. No more interviews on ABC-TV; no more "ink" in the Lost Angeles Times.

In other words, your faithful scribe has been reduced to writing nonsense for the Defender and giving interviews on KRFP, Radio Free Moscow, 92.5 on your FM dial (and with a listener range of almost 500 yards). What a comedown. I almost miss the Freddie's. But only almost.

Species Spotlight: Idaho Giant Salamander (*Dicamptodon aterrimus*) By Christina Browning

Found primarily in the moist coniferous forests of the Rocky Mountains of north and central Idaho and extreme parts of Montana, as the name suggests, the Idaho Giant Salamander (*D. aterrimus*) is the largest salamander found in the state.



photo courtesy Gary Nafis

Originally considered a subspecies of *D. ensatus*, this salamander is now one of three separate species:

The Idaho Giant Salamander, the Pacific Giant Salamander (*D. tenebrosus*), and the California Giant Salamander (*D. ensatus*). The other two species are distributed farther west, from central California to British Columbia.

These dark brown or black, smooth-skinned salamanders are known for their gray, tan or copper marbled pattern of spots or mottling on backs. And can grow as large as 12-13 inches in size.

Since water is essential for reproduction, the giants are common near streams, lakes and ponds. Rarely seen in the daylight, they can be found hiding in moist areas, such as under rocks, logs or bark.

They are most active on warmer, rainy nights. Whereas most salamanders are voiceless, the Idaho giant is unique in its ability to produce a sound ranging from a low growl to a higher pitched yelp, when it is disturbed.

Christina Browning, a recent graduate from the University of Idaho, worked as an education and outreach intern for Friends of the Clearwater this past summer.

Clearwater Region Update

By Gary Macfarlane

Three recent court victories highlight the past few months of FOC's work to protect the wild Clearwater country. The first court victory occurred on the Meadow Face Timber Sale on the Nez Perce National Forest in the South Fork Clearwater

drainage. Judge Lodge, one who rarely if ever rules for sound environmental protection, so ruled on a preliminary injunction though not until some of the logging had occurred. This decision notes the agency clearly failed to assess the cumulative impacts of this sale. Friends of the Clearwater, the Ecology Center, the Alliance for the Wild Rockies and the Idaho Sporting Congress were represented on this case by the Western Environmental Law Center. Currently, the logging has been stopped and we are in discussions with the government to agree that the ruling should stand. It is rare when a preliminary injunction is issued for the judge to rule against those bringing the suit. The large sale exempted the soil protection standards that the Forest Service itself established in the Nez Perce National Forest plan in 1987. The sale decision also allowed logging in old forests which were set aside for protection in the same forest plan.

The second case, filed by the Idaho Conservation League and Friends of the Clearwater on the Whiskey South Timber Sale in the South Fork Clearwater. We were represented by Advocates for



Old growth Western red cedar in Meadow Creek, NPNF

the West. This sale was on public land managed by both the Bureau of Land Management and the Nez Perce National Forest (NOTE: It is a quirk of public land history and policy that this land around Elk City did not become part of the Nez Perce National Forest). Judge Williams ruled that the agencies had failed in numerous ways on this timber sale. He ruled it was insufficient to comply

with the national environmental policy act (NEPA). The size of this sale and its impacts are such that the agencies should have prepared a more thorough Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) rather than a more cursory environmental analysis.

Judge Williams also noted the EA's analysis of

the fire regime was inconsistent with BLM's own scientific information. Indeed, we pointed out that the BLM was essentially misleading the public on this issue by claiming one thing that was inconsistent with their own science in order to preclude a real restoration alternative. The agencies' apparent goal from the beginning was to log rather than restore the area.

Judge Williams also indicated that the EA was inadequate in assessing certain forest diseases, current fish habitat conditions, and Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. This is important as the BLM and Forest Service proposed logging in stream-side buffers that are normally off-limits to logging to protect fish habitat.

What is most surprising is that BLM, in spite of

Continued, next page

losing in court, is now proposing the same ill-advised project, with little if any change. This reflects contempt for the nation's system of environmental laws and the citizens. We demand better of our public servants.

In the third case, Judge Lodge issued a preliminary injunction on two timber sales in Lolo Creek on the Clearwater National Forest. These sales should have been analyzed in a single EIS. It was our hope that had the Forest Service looked at these sales together and done an honest assessment, the agency may have decided the cumulative impacts from logging were too great and would have either dropped or greatly modified the proposed timber sales.

Advocates for the West represented the Ecology Center and Friends of the Clearwater on this case. We are concerned about the cumulative impacts of water quality, fish habitat, older forest, and rare species. Judge Lodge ruled in our favor because the two EAs were so bad in reporting the negative and cumulative impacts from these sales. After the preliminary junction was issued, the government essentially gave up and agreed to withdraw the decisions on these two sales.

These three law suits, all decided by judges not prone to rule for the health of water and land, show just how far the agencies have strayed in their obligation to the public. The current administration seeks to ignore all of our national public land/environmental laws for the benefit of its industrial supporters and that policy, whether forced or willingly adopted, is implemented by the Forest Service and BLM.

One of the results of these victories is that the Nez Perce National Forest officials ap-

proached Friends of the Clearwater on the Crooked American project in the South Fork Clearwater in an effort to see if litigation can be avoided by eliminating unroaded area logging, reducing logging elsewhere, and prioritizing road closures and watershed restoration even though the regional office in Missoula, MT turned down the appeal filed by Friends of the Clearwater, the Ecology Center, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, the Lands Council and Idaho Sporting Congress.

In other news, the Lands Council, Friends of the Clearwater, Native Forest Network, and Gene and Mollie Eastman challenged a timber sale on the Clearwater National Forest near the historic Lolo Trail which is the route used by the Nez Perce for centuries and was also used by Lewis and Clark. This sale was not subject to the normal administrative review process. Unfortunately, we failed to get an injunction this sale and it has been completed.

FOC has also been busy in trying to keep the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness wild as the law requires. We have been on two field trips with Forest Service to look at trail and bridge projects in the wilderness (by law, wilderness is generally free of bridges and high-standard trails, unless they are the minimum necessary to protect the area as wilderness). We are working with our friends at Wilderness Watch, the Ecology Center and the Alliance for the Wild Rockies to make sure the intent of wilderness is maintained in the face of special interest groups who want the wilderness treated as merely a recreation resource rather than a wild area where the forces of nature predominate.

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The U. S. Forest Service Consciously Violates the same Environmental Laws that they are Sworn to Enforce and Uphold

By Richard Artley, Retired U.S. Forest Service Employee October, 2005

This article, our feature, represents part 1 in a three part series. The essay in its entirety can be read on the web at www.wildrockies.org/foc. Parts 2 and 3 will follow in subsequent Defenders.

Introduction

The Forest Service is hired and paid by 293 million American citizen-owners of the public land. The mission of the agency is to take care of and protect this public land. One would think that any service organization or agency would want to please the people who provide their salary money. Not the forest service. See the next section on public polls.

Many mid and low level forest service employees take great pride in planning and preparing a patchwork quilt of logging units connected by roads in the public forests. These agency employees feel that selling publicly owned trees is their real job in the Forest Service. The term “timber volume” has taken on a quasi-spiritual meaning for these Forest Service “timber” employees. This feeling is allowed to prosper in spite of the fact that know there is not a timber shortage of domestic in the United States.

What do the 293 million public land get in return for and encouraging such land? Usually the public tragedy and the bill to fix it , if it’s fixable.

“All polls and surveys of the average American citizen show the same thing . . . most Americans do not want commodity extraction using heavy equipment on their National Forests.”

among these employees their forest service bosses ber famine, or even a hint tic softwood lumber or pulp

million owners of this public the forest service allowing resource plunder of public land is handed an ecological

ALL Polls and Surveys of the Average American Citizen show the same thing ... most Americans do not want Commodity Extraction using Heavy Equipment on their National Forests.

Nationwide and statewide polling data taken from scores of polls over the past several decades has been very consistent across demographic, geographic, and political lines. Clearly, these statistically significant polls reveal that the American public wants forest conservation and protection to be the prime directive guiding the Forest Service’s management of public forests and grasslands, not natural resource extraction using mechanized, industrial methods.

Ironically and without explanation, upper-level Forest Service managers and policy makers ignore these polls. Why do they ignore these surveys? Much of this reflects an uncaring attitude toward public land. The basis for this uncaring attitude can be summed up in two areas: politics, and follow the money.

Another reason the Forest Service ignores national public polls is because they have an arrogant “we know better” or “we’re the professionals” attitude. In the case of timber sales, this attitude can almost always be linked back to the pathological need by some Forest Service employees to see publicly owned trees cut down and logged. Perhaps this gives them a feeling of power. I am not a psychologist, so I don’t know.

Given the Large Number of Soil and Vegetation Disturbance Projects Initiated by the Forest

Service, why are there not more Ecologists employed by the Agency?

Scientists that are very well versed in many natural resources (both flora and fauna) and the vast number of linkages and interactions between these resources are called ecologists. If a tree is cut down, they will know how that directly and indirectly affects a bird, a mammal (including humans), an insect, a fish, a fungus and a single celled organism.

Experts in the science of planting and tending trees that will eventually be cut down, logged and used commercially are called silviculturists.

One wonders why the Forest Service employs at least ten times as many silviculturists as they do ecologists. Does the Forest Service not wish to know how the myriad of potentially affected natural resources will react to one of their logging projects, or do they just not care?

Most silviculturists were trained in college to practice industrial forestry. Industrial forestry should only occur on privately owned timberlands. The assumption here was that most silviculturists would find employment with a private timber corporation and practice what they learned in college on the corporation's industrial timberlands.

The forest Service upset this assumption when they hired so many silviculturists. Now, as a result, some of these Forest Service silviculturists are slowly turning our diverse national forests into tree farms.

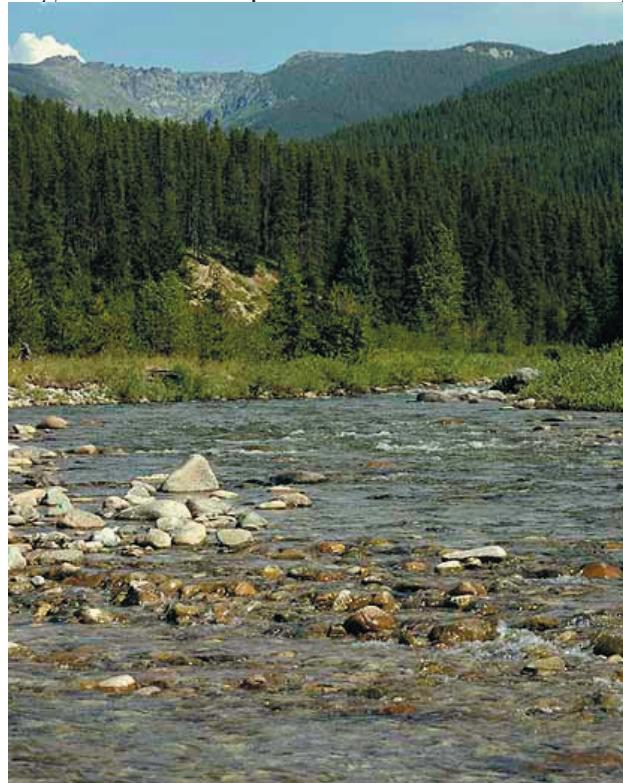
If the forest service must have their silviculturists, so be it, but these people must work very, very closely with ecologists when designing timber sales. Ecologists understand the nearly infinite and complex interactions of all natural resources in the forest, not just trees.

Clearly, Constructing Logging Access Roads has the most Severe Ecological Impact of any Action Humans might take in the Forest.

In Forest Roads: A Synthesis of Scientific Information, General Technical Report PNW-GTR-509, compiled by the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station in May

2001, the Forest Service itself cites the following eight adverse effects of roads in the forest:

1) Roads can have major adverse effects on biodiversity, many of which are described (Forman and Collinge 1996). A recent review by Forman and Hersperger (1996) usefully distinguishes these aspects of the road-biodiversity



Kelly Creek, part of a large roadless area complex on the North Fork Clearwater drainage

interaction: 1) Road density: As road density increases, thresholds may be passed that cause some species to go locally extinct. The probability of extinction depends, in part, on body size, with larger animals requiring larger residual populations to prevent their extinction. 2) Road-effect zone: The effects of roads can extend over some distance from their centers, such that their 'effective widths' can be many times their actual widths.

2) Roads contribute more sediment to streams than does any other land management activity (Gibbons and Salo 1973, Meehan 1991). Most of the sediment from timber harvest activi

Forest Service Violation, Page 8

Forest Service Violation, from Page 7

ties is related to roads and road building (Chamberlain and others 1991, Dunne and Leopold 1978, Furniss and others 1991, MacDonald and Ritland 1989, Megahan and others 1978) and the associated increases in erosion rates (Beschta 1978, Gardner 1979, Meehan 1991, Rhodes and others 1994, Reid 1993, Reid and Dunne 1984, Swanson and Dyrness 1975, Swanson and Swanson 1976).

3) Serious degradation of fish habitat can result from poorly planned, designed, located, built, or maintained roads (Furniss and others 1991, MacDonald and others 1991, Rhodes and others 1994). Increased fine sediment composition in stream gravel has been linked to decreased fry emergence, decreased juvenile densities, loss of winter carrying capacity, and increased predation of fishes.

The effects of roads are not limited to those associated with increases in fine-sediment delivery to streams; they can include barriers to migration, water temperature changes, and alterations to stream flow regimes. Improper culvert placement at road-stream crossings can reduce or eliminate fish passage (Belford and Gould 1989), and road crossings are a common migration barrier to fish (Clancy and Reichmuth 1990, Evans and Johnston 1980, Furniss and others 1991).

4) In recent research in the interior Columbia River basin, Wisdom and others (2000) identify more than 65 species of terrestrial vertebrates negatively affected by many factors associated with roads. Specific factors include habitat loss and fragmentation, negative edge effects,

reduced densities of snags and logs, overhunting, over-trapping, poaching, collection, disturbance, collisions, movement barriers, displacement or avoidance, and chronic, negative interactions with people.

5) Forest roads pose a risk of being run-over to small, slowly moving, migratory animals, such as amphibians, making them highly vulnerable as they cross even narrow forest roads (Langton 1989). Nearly all species of reptiles use roads for cooling and heating, so many of them are killed by vehicles.

6) Roads of any sort in the very limited geographic range of the primary host provide a



Rapid River, unprotected roadless country just east of Hells Canyon Wilderness

way to move soil-along with the fungus-from infected to uninfected areas. Spread of the fungus can be checked by careful planning to reduce entry to uninfected areas, road closures, partial road closures during wet weather, attention to road surfaces and drainage of possibly contaminated water to streams, wash stations to remove soil from vehicles before entry to uninfected areas, and sanitation strips to remove host plants from near roadsides (Kliejunas 1994, Roth and others 1987, Zobel and others 1985).

7) Forest roads create corridors by which predators, especially people, can enter the forest environment and affect wildlife populations.

High road densities are associated with a variety of negative human effects on several wildlife species (Brocke and others 1988). People directly affect snakes by collecting, harassing,

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and killing them (Wisdom and others, 2000). Increases in illegal hunting pressure, facilitated by roads, also negatively affect populations. Moose, wolves, caribou, pronghorn antelope, mountain goat, bighorn sheep are particularly vulnerable to this kind of predation (Lyon 1985, Wisdom and others, 2000).

8) Chemicals applied on and adjacent to roads can enter streams by various pathways. The likelihood of water quality deterioration from ground applications is a function of how much chemical is applied, the proximity of the road to a stream, and the rainfall, snowmelt, and wind events that drive chemical and sediment movement. The risk is a function of the likelihood of water-quality deterioration and exposure of organisms, including people, and how susceptible the organisms are to the pollutants.”

In remarks to Forest Service employees and retirees at the the University of Montana in February 1998, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck stated, “Roads often cause serious ecological impacts. There are few more irreparable marks we can leave on the land than to build a road.” With this knowledge, one wonders why the Forest Service continues to build thousands of miles of new forest roads each year.

Please look for parts 2 and 3 of our feature piece by Dick Artley in upcoming winter and spring issues of the Clearwater Defender or read it on the web in its entirety at www.wildrockies.org/foc

Local Business Group Update By Jeanne Clothiaux

In August I went around to a handful of downtown business owners I knew and asked if any of them were interested in coming together with me to form a business group to help support Friends of the Clearwater. I had in mind that the members of this group would annually donate money to FOC, help out with a yearly auction, and work with FOC in its job of educating the citizenry on public lands issues in whatever capacity we could.

On September 12, 2005, a group of seven business owners, three board members, and two staff members convened. What came out of that discussion was more than a rough-cast plan for how local businesses could get involved in protecting Clearwater country. What we found was a rare excitement in the room

over discovering we were coming together with like-minded passion for our wild lands and similar concerns over degradation of our planet. By the end, we agreed there was a great opportunity in our grasp for lobbying for FOC, for shifting major financial support for FOC away from out-of-state, out-of-region foundations and grant-givers, and for drumming up local energy for letter-writing campaigns and litigation support, thereby securing FOC’s viability in the decades to come. Exciting stuff!

We will be working hard over the next few months making decisions about how to get our group’s mission off the ground. Look for more information about the [Wild Clearwater Business Group-We haven’t named it yet.] in coming issues of the Clearwater Defender. If you are a business owner and would like to get involved, please feel free to contact me at ja@moscow.com. There’s power in numbers.



The Mallard Larkins roadless area, in Clearwater County, is one of the many gems threatened by Bush’s roadless rule repeal

Our wild lands have sustained many assaults and losses recently. It is with a heavy heart that we inform our community of the passing of three companions, compatriots, and activists. Their loss is deeply felt.

JOHN RUETHER

FOC member Dr. John Ruether, age 64, recently passed away on a hiking trip. He loved wild country and was a great Friend of the Clearwater. I remember meeting John when Kristin, his daughter who was also the first FOC employee, brought him to meet me. I was impressed by his quiet strength.

Only much later did I discover he was well-known as an energy and global warming researcher. John worked for the Department of Energy in Pittsburgh, PA for 28 years, focusing on improving air quality through clean coal technology and reducing global warming. He was passionate about saving the earth's biodiversity, and did not temper his positions under anti-environmental administrations, which occasionally got him in hot water.

He was an energetic supporter of many environmental groups, but he most enjoyed supporting the smaller, more radical ones. He was thrilled when Kristin was hired at FOC, especially because her job description contained the phrase "a love of the place." He remarked that his job history was poorer for never having had a job description with that phrase. A few years after I met him, we worked together on a letter to the editor advocating national forest preservation. He really didn't need my help as he quickly understood the controversies and policies about national forests when he investigated them.

John was an avid birder and adventurer. He took many canoeing and hiking trips with his family to Canada, and several long backpacking trips into the Grand Canyon. My regret is I never got to go hiking in the wild Clearwater country with him. We talked about it every year, but the trip never materialized. His last two weeks were spent on a rigorous trek through the Peruvian Andes with his partner Nancy Meister. Altitude sickness struck

him at nearly the end of their journey, in a starkly beautiful valley at approximately 14,000 feet elevation.

John is survived by 3 children, Andrew, Kristin, and Robin, and one granddaughter, Amelia. The family has asked that memorial donations be given to FOC. FOC joins his family in celebrating his life.

by Gary Macfarlane

CINDY STRAND

February 1952 - September 2005

After a long battle, Cindy succumbed on Friday, September 16th, peacefully, in her sleep. True to her spirit, she was up-beat to the end; she had just been accepted at a Caregiver facility on a ranch and was looking forward to some quality time with horses and such. For those of you involved with the Cove/Mallard Campaign in central Idaho in the '90's, you will remember her as "Thunder", her nom de guerre while running a tight filed kitchen. If you were planning an action or recovering from just being released from jail, you were free to relax, play the guitar, chill out. Otherwise, you had better be chopping something; firewood or garlic, it didn't mater.

I first met Cindy in 1991 after the 2nd "Redwood Summer" in California. She wormed her way into the Ancient Forest Bus Brigade (1 bus) determined, as are we all, to save forests and, perhaps, the world. I say "wormed" because I was less than thrilled to be acquiring 2 unknowns (to me, anyway): 1 recovering drug addict/dealer (Cindy), and 1 dog. My prediction, silently made, was that none of them would last 2 weeks. Fortunately for the Forest Protection Movement, my forecast turned out to be 180 degrees off the mark. (The dog, Bones, the Base Camp Wonder Dog, lived to be 201/2.)

On a more personal note, knowing Cindy gave me the opportunity to meet her daughter, Sheryl, and, later, her husband, David. They left

the good life in Los Angeles to move to Idaho and be with The Mom during what turned out to be the last year of her altogether-too-short life. Cindy could be, dare I say, a bit of a curmudgeon (may I write freely here? . . . it takes one to know one after all). At times, it took a certain amount of diplomacy to deal with her and her accumulating medical problems. But they certainly were up to the task: during a week in July I spent near Cindy and her oh-so-splendid decked-out school bus (yes, the original AFBB bus), she told me at least once a day how much her kids meant to her and what a great job they were doing in caring for



Matthew David Haun in his beloved Utah wildlands

her. If you feel the urge to send a note of sympathy and support, they can be reached at: Sheryl and David Romines, 3419 4th Street, "D" Space #4, Lewiston, ID 83501.

At this time, ideas for a Memorial Non-Service are floating around. Perhaps at the LAW Conference in March: perhaps later in the Spring in Missoula. In the meantime, feel free to tip a glass to her memory whenever the spirit moves you. You could say: "Here's to an amazing woman, fierce defender of the forest, lover and teacher (never trainer) of all sorts of animals, great chef, bon vivant and a pretty good singer too."

Cheers, Cindy.

by Uncle Ramon

MATTHEW DAVID HAUN

Matthew David Haun died July 19, 2005 at one of his favorite places in the world, Bells Canyon, Utah. It is with great sadness that I write this, yet also with great reverence. Matthew was a dear friend to me. I had the honor of traveling with him over the course of two years, getting to explore gorgeous remote wildlands all over the country. From his years of activism, he had friends, family really, all over the country. We traveled to Maine, Indiana, Nevada, Missouri, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Montana, Oregon, and the list goes on to visit folks he had met and become friends with at Redwood Summer, the Nevada Test Site, the Western Shoshone Defense Project, and the countless forest actions in which he participated. In 1980, Matthew gave up his car and as he says, he "never looked back." He hopped freight, riding the rails and he walked. While not a speedy hiker, Matthew was

steady. He covered great distances every day. Matthew was an activist; he literally walked his talk. Matthew was loved and respected because of the love, passion, quick wit, and energy he brought to the movement.

What most environmentalists know about Matthew is his poetry and his biting humor. Matthew had a quick wit and no one was too sensitive or too important to avoid it. He was a great poet and performer. I remember one campfire night when we were sitting around a campfire and people begged him to perform. Obliging, Matthew would go into his trance, dancing and jumping around the fire. Performing Hiawatha, the audience would join in yelling "hoodoo, hoodoo, hoodoo, hoodoo, hoodoo."

Captivated, the crowd listened to his poems about lovers, the Earth, the system, and the places he loved. Matthew loved his poetry. In the winter of 1998, Matthew started transcribing the rhythmic fictional stories that he had been dreaming up for

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Haun, from Page 11

years. In 1999, he began to perform them. Not using notes, Matthew told these rhyming stories, one lasting over an hour. On paper, these stories are in stanza form. A student of the classics and Greek mythology, Matthew was our modern day Homer.

I met Matthew in Idaho at Cove/Mallard in the summer of 1997. He had just been arrested in Oregon, which had slowed down his arrival. He greeted his old friends with giant bear hugs, the kind of hug that leaves an impression on you. I feel lucky to have been introduced to the Idaho woods by Matthew. He taught me to be silent, to listen to the trees, to move with the landscape. He was hard-core; not wanting to be slowed by extra weight, I learned that Matthew didn't hike with a sleeping bag or a tent; rather, we layered our clothes and put a space blanket on top of us for extra warmth.

Matthew knew Cove/Mallard as well as anyone. For eight years, he traveled through that beautiful forest, exploring, working, and fighting to keep it from being logged. Matthew was instrumental in the success of preventing the Cove/Mallard timber sales from being completed. He was alive in those woods and those woods are still alive because of him.

Matthew died hiking on a waterfall outside of Salt Lake City. He had biked 20 miles from the city to do this day hike. I am fortunate that Matthew took me to a waterfall near Bells Canyon to show me how beautiful this place was and how special it was to him

I don't think I'll ever meet someone like Matthew Haun again. He was passionate, brilliant, and wise beyond his 44 years. If he were writing this, he would say that we've used enough tree-flesh to remember him. So, my dear Matthew, with that I'll end this tribute. Sweet dreams and I'll catch ya on the rebound.

by Emily (Sugar) Loeb



Life on the Lochsa, as it should be, photo courtesy Will Boyd

Connecting the Dots By Chris Norden

As we witness the slow-motion collapse of the Bush administration and the steady decline in public support for its far right agenda, one might be tempted to laugh heartily-were it not for all the chaos, destruction, and death left in the wake. To crib a phrase from Thomas Pynchon, we sure are slow learners, and how.

The human and non-human casualties of this administration's policies and ways of doing business are many. Reading the popular press, we see columnists and pundits trying to connect the dots between the various missteps-between New Orleans and Iraq; between global warming, loss of wetlands and barrier island habitat, and catastrophic flooding. My intuition is that pretty much all the dots do in fact connect. In one way or another, the root cause of human suffering often as not proves to be failure to care for one another, for our communities, and for our environment. And yes, it's often poor, non-white people who bear the brunt of this neglect.

At this point in our history as a nation, it is imperative that those of us who think of ourselves as champions and defenders of wil-

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derness and wild nature keep two very important balls in the air simultaneously. On the one hand we need to keep doing what we are good at doing, namely advocating for conservation values, for wilderness, for sensible management of public lands, and insisting that the Forest Service and other public agencies follow the law all the time, and not just when it's convenient to do so. We need to keep making noise, speaking on behalf of places and creatures that cannot speak for themselves. But we also need to be as mindful as possible of the bigger context in which our efforts and battles are taking place.



Mallard's View, photo courtesy Gerry Snyder

We also need to be good at connecting the dots, and we need to be good at making a case for the centrality of wilderness and wild lands relative to a bigger picture. This bigger picture includes an America concerned with growing economic anxiety, a shrinking and increasingly precarious middle class, unaffordable health

care, pollution-related illness and disease, dysfunctional and corrupt energy policies, runaway personal debt, poverty, and enduring xenophobia and racism. Internationally, the bigger picture involves not only the intractability of war, but also a growing consensus against US imperialism, and a growing resistance to a Bush administration that claims-on moral

grounds the right to practice state-sanctioned torture, while wantonly disregarding diplomacy and international law as avenues for non-violent problem solving.

One very important connection between these big picture issues and the current administration's

scorn of wilderness and undeveloped wildlands is the fundamental disregard for life, living beings, and living communities which makes possible policies and actions that any sane person would instinctively reject as inhumane and immoral. This, fundamentally, is what we share in common with various other rights and justice movements—we revere living beings and communities, and we seek to defend those unable to defend themselves.

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Keep-it-Close By ... Calendar of Events

Roadless Area Work Parties

*Dec. 8, 6-9 pm at One World Cafe
(533 S. Main) in Moscow*

*Dec. 9th, 6-9 pm at the FOC office
(116 East 3rd) in Moscow*

Voice your concerns for roadless area protection in Clearwater and Idaho counties.

Please stop by and visit us at our office in downtown Moscow! We share our office building with Radio Free Moscow, Ecostructure, & various community artists. We are located at 116 East 3rd St., above the Shirt Shack in Moscow.

Contact us at (208) 882-9755 or foc@wildrockies.org. We are on the web at www.wildrockies.org/foc