



# Clearwater Defender

News of the Big Wild

Friends of the Clearwater

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## Praise for a migrating Trout

by Greg Gollberg, board member

Many of you who will read this already know that in November of 2005 Larry McLaud (aka Lorenzo Trout) left FOC and took a position with Hell's Canyon Preservation Council (HCPC) in La Grande, Oregon. Larry started his conservation director position with FOC in 2002. His job duties included commenting on proposed FS projects, writing news releases, coalition building, project formulation and implementation, grant writing; he supervised volunteers, made contributions to the newsletter, and he did a dozen or so other odd jobs that are part of keeping FOC going. He performed all of these tasks with sincerity, integrity, and great passion, as do many longtime grassroots defenders of our public lands. There are too few staff in too few grassroots conservation organizations defending public lands. Larry was tireless in his efforts on our behalf to safeguard the Clearwater-Salmon ecosystem. He will be sorely missed.

Larry always brought thoughtfulness and experience beyond his perpetual thirty-seven years to whatever the crisis of the day was. The running joke about his age, his Lorenzo Trout moniker, his commitment to FOC and his conservation ethic are glimpses of him, but they are far from the whole



Larry McLaud has been instrumental in protecting the wildlands of the Clearwater basin, especially its vast roadless country.

story. He was the guy who gave up on a PhD in economics to spend more time in Idaho's wilderness. He was also the guy who came to dinner at our house on Christmas Eve for 7 years. He was a Peace Corps volunteer and did a stint in Afghanistan. He worked at the Boise Co-Op and was a fire lookout. He is a gourmet cook when he wants to be. He is an avid and extremely knowledgeable red wine enthusiast. Anyone who saw the movie Sideways would remember a line that the actor Paul Giamatti as Miles delivered to his friend Jack played by Thomas

Haden Church as they were about to enter a restaurant to meet their dates for the evening. Drawing the line at what he would and would not do in order to satisfy Jack's desires for the evening, Miles blurts out "I'm not drinking any f\_ing Merlot." Larry felt that way about white wines and I tend to agree with him.

There's nothing like sharing snobbery with a friend and that's what Larry is to me. He's my friend and I already miss spending time with him.

There is a continuum of preference amongst wildland enthusiasts for a "wilderness experience." At one end of the continuum is the lone hiker who shuns human contact, prefers solitude, and seeks to experience the wild in private. At the other end are hikers who travel in packs. In this example the

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## Wild Rockies Rendezvous 2005

By Chris Norden

*board member*

*A portion of this article was omitted in our last Defender. Our apologies. It is as follows.*

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 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, wilderness champion 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 wonder and joy and love for wild nature while at the same time comprehending and publicizing its possible and even imminent demise? For this work and this question, the 2005 Wild Rockies Rendezvous provided one really great answer, plus a whole bunch of new questions. Please keep an eye out for future announcements about next year's Rendezvous, which will most likely be in September again. And plan to join us!

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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Sheep Creek in the River of No Return Wilderness

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## A Migrating Trout, continued

individual hiker seeks the company of others in order to enrich the wilderness event through shared experience. Neither is superior to the other. They simply are. I think I share a disposition with Larry that puts us somewhere far to the left of center on the continuum on the private side.

I for one tend to be very protective of my time in the backwoods. I don't share wilderness with just anyone. Larry is one of the few people I have cherished spending time with in the wild.

I remember in particular one trip to the Boulder – White Clouds. This may have been my first trip with Larry. I believe it was early in June and it was one of those years that summer ran over



One of Lorenzo's "secret spots" in N. Idaho, photo by Larry McLaud

the top of spring and settled in fast. We hoped to avoid any other "hikers" and have a nice trip into some spectacular high country. We didn't really think about the implications of how warm it had been. At the end of a strenuous first day we were tired but happy. We had hiked over a pass, avoided any other hominids, managed to set up our tents and eat before the rain began. One of us commented on how fast the water was running in the creek that we were camped next to and we wondered if we would be able to cross it in the morning.

During the night I was partially routed out of a dream by some indistinct noise. Later, before the sun was up, I was startled awake by a crash/thud

kind of sound that was close by. But, it was still raining and dark and quiet again, and I was apparently unharmed, so I drifted back off to sleep.

Finally, Larry and I lumbered out of our tents at about the same time. When I awoke the creek was wider than it was the night before. I noticed that there were branches on my tent, top branches, and some were connected to a cottonwood tree whose roots were exposed in the creek that was roaring some 35-40 feet away. This was a bit unnerving, but not nearly as disturbing as when I noticed that Larry was slowly hobbling towards me. He looked to be a lame two-legged horse. Had a tree smacked him during the night? I started imagining his weight. "Hmm, I think he's too big to carry over the pass through the rain, slush, and snow. But, I don't think it would be acceptable to put him down." It was then that I found out that he has "bad ankles." He said, "I'll be fine. I brought along some industrial strength Ibuprofen just in case." To myself, I thought there's no way.

We broke camp and he strapped on his pack. We decided it probably wasn't a good idea to try to cross the creek. And, hiking back over the pass at the moment was not a great option, so we bushwhacked down the creek.

He moved real slow. In a couple of hours the rain let up and Larry's limp started to disappear too. He never complained. Before the trip was over we got temporarily lost after we gained some elevation and found a breathtaking ridge with a view to camp on. (I have a picture from that ridge that Larry took of the surrounding mountains as the sun was going down.) We thought that the next drainage was the one we should hike out of, but it turned out to be the one after that. When we made it back to his rig he pulled out a bag of salt and vinegar chips and a nice bottle of Zinfandel, which we enjoyed thoroughly in a hot spring nearby. I have the fondest of memories from this trip and I learned a lot about the character and persistence of one Mr. Trout.

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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 is part 2 in a three-part series. The essay in its entirety can be read on the web at [www.wildrockies.org/foc](http://www.wildrockies.org/foc). Part 1 can be found in the Fall '05 Defender. Part 3 will be featured in our Spring '06 edition.*

This Essay is NOT Intended to Criticize the Timber Industry.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with making a profit in America. The timber industry is in business. Any private business seeks to make a profit on their investments for their stockholders.

The timber industry cuts trees and logs them. These logs are then hauled to a mill, where they are made into boards. These boards are then shipped to many locations, where they are made into useable wood products for nearly every American citizen.

Most of this logging takes place on land owned by the timber corporations. When these timber corporations replant their private acres after logging, they usually plant tree species with a high lumber value. These seedlings are usually planted in rows with consistent tree spacing to increase logging production, which therefore decreases the costs of logging. These are tree farms, not forests.

The Forest Service allows and indeed encourages the timber industry to build roads and harvest trees owned by the American public. This happens in spite of the fact that America does not have a shortage of softwood products. This happens in spite of the fact that the Forest Service policymakers know that the vast majority of Americans do not wish to have their public forests logged.

Many American owners of the public lands visit their forests each year. They leave with bad feelings that their land is cut up by roads, and pock-marked by logging units. They blame the timber industry for this.

This blame is misplaced! The timber corporation with the high bid for a timber sale, signs a logging contract with the Forest Service. In the contract, the Forest Service specifies exactly when, where, and how the logging and road construction will take place. The Forest Service actually plans the ecological damage and specifies how it will take place.

The timber companies that build the roads and do the logging are only following the orders given to it by the Forest Service. These companies are only taking advantage of a profit making opportunity provided to them by the Forest Service.

My web search for Federal Court cases where the Forest Service was the Defendant, found many Instances where the Agency was Guilty.

A web search was initiated for state and appellate federal court cases where the Forest Service was the defendant accused of violating one or more environmental laws. This search included only cases heard in the jurisdiction of the 9th and 10th circuit courts since January 1994.

Since the Forest Service is sworn to enforce (not violate) these important environmental laws, I expected "not guilty" rulings to dominate the majority of the verdicts involving the Forest Service. This was not the case. Surprisingly, my final web search turned up more than 50 court cases with guilty verdicts against the Forest Service. Many of the court cases involved multiple national forests violating multiple laws simultaneously.

It's anyone's guess how many times the Forest Service was found guilty in the other circuit court jurisdictions in the Midwest, South, East, and Northeast that weren't part of this web search. In the 50 guilty verdicts against the Forest Service, there were 17 separate laws broken at least once. As might be expected, America's most important environmental laws were violated the most often. The Forest Service most frequently violated the following laws: the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Forest Management Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

The reason these three laws were violated the most by the Forest Service is clear. These three

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Clear Creek Roadless Area, Clearwater NF  
*photo by Jo Bohna, February 2006*

laws restrain harmful commercial activities in public forests more than any other laws. If the Forest Service followed these three laws, Americans would be assured that an intact public forest legacy would be left to their unborn heirs.

To a lover of wildlands, nature, and public lands, these court case results are frightening. This lawbreaking by the government agency that is charged with protecting the land is an outrage! This Forest Service lawbreaking does not happen by accident. Each national forest employs a person who is an expert in these laws. So, one must assume that these laws are violated by the Forest Service with conscious intent to do so.

There is no Punishment for Forest Service Employees who break the Law.

The resource impacts that result from the Forest Service environmental lawbreaking are bad enough, but in the majority of cases, the Forest Service managers responsible for the violation are not reprimanded.

For example, in January 1994, Eldorado National Forest managers were forced to suspend 24 timber sales that had already been contracted to logging companies. This was the largest withdrawal of contracted timber sales in the history of the Western United States. This withdrawal of sales occurred because the Eldorado staff failed to prepare accurate environmental documentation required by

the NEPA. This environmental analysis and documentation is required under the NEPA before any project is initiated on public land that may have an adverse effect on the environment. As a result of the 24 timber sale suspensions, American taxpayers faced up to \$30 million in claims for breach of contract. In January 1996, the Forest Service paid \$400,000 to settle the first three claims from the six affected timber companies. Other claims are being filed, and still others are in litigation. The Eldorado National Forest has also spent another \$3 million preparing new environmental documents for the canceled sales so they might be

sold again.

The Forest Service managers who committed the illegal violations that led to the timber sale suspensions have been promoted and commended. The Forest Service employees who reported the violations of law have been stripped of their responsibilities.

The Eldorado National Forest Supervisor and the Timber Management Officer were both referred for criminal prosecution by the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California. This never occurred. In fact, just the opposite happened. The Timber Management Officer was promoted from GS-13 to GS-14 and moved to Washington, DC as a specialist for timber sale contract administration. This person explained to a local activist that people in the Forest Service timber program are never punished. He said those who “screw up, move up.” The Forest Supervisor was commended and remained in charge of the Eldorado National Forest.

“New Threats” to our Public Land are being used by the Forest Service to Mask-Over the Old Threats that Still Exist.

High-level Forest Service managers want the public to believe that just because there are new concerns and issues on public land, the older issues have been solved or have gone away. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In the April 30, 2003 issue of the UC Berkely

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## Wolves and Wilderness

By Gary Macfarlane

Wolves, to many of us, are the living embodiment of wildness. They tend to survive only where humans allow them and that is usually in wild country often designated Wilderness. The wild heart of Idaho, which includes the wild Clearwater Country and the wild Salmon Country further south, simply known as the Big Wild is one such place. The present federal administration's recent changes of wolf management, which in itself is of questionable legality, gave wolf management authority to the state of Idaho. Two quick reports follow on the important issue of this keystone species and Wilderness.

### *"Whacking" Wolves*

The Idaho Fish and Game has proposed, as its first management action, to kill wolves in the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. The present federal administration's recent changes in wolf management policy could allow the state of Idaho to begin killing up to 75% of the wolves in the wild Clearwater Country as early as this year.

Most wolves in Idaho fall under the so-called "experimental, non-essential" rule, also called "10j", in reference to the section from the Endangered Species Act which wolf recovery was conducted. "10j" allow managers to kill wolves because they are simply non-essential. (Editor's note: The state of Idaho has recently proposed to the present administration that they also would like to control wolf management in the area north of I-90. These are not "10j" wolves, but are fully protected under the Endangered Species Act.)

What is at issue is that the Department of Fish and Game wants to kill wolves to increase elk numbers along the upper Clearwater River. A

member of the Fish and Game Commission said they want to "whack wolves." Such a mentality exhibits disdain for wildlife and natural processes. It is a sad statement on the lack of professionalism in the governing body of Idaho's wildlife.

The state is required under the new rules to present peer-reviewed data to the US Fish and Wildlife Service before it could start the killing. The peer reviews question the credibility of Idaho's proposal. Public comment was overwhelmingly against killing wolves. (FOC joined Defenders of Wildlife, Wolf Education Research Center, Wolf Recovery Foundation, the Lands Council, Boulder-White Clouds Council, Western Watersheds Project, and ICL in coordinating publicity).

In fact, earlier quotes from Department of Fish and Game biologists indicated that Idaho had not met the standard for killing wolves. The data thus far indicates wolves are not the primary factor in declines of elk.

The elk situation in the upper Clearwater River is different from most elk ranges. There is no typical shrub-steppe winter range as is common elsewhere in the West. Here, the elk winter-range is ephemeral because the potential natural vegetation for these brush fields is actually conifer forest. Prior to large fires of the early 1900s, there were fewer elk than even today. Elk numbers in the 1900s were probably at all-time abnormal highs since the retreat of the glaciers. If wolves and other factors are preventing elk numbers from climbing, it may be a good thing from the standpoint of other resources. Lewis and Clark nearly starved in this area for lack of ungulate game.

Thus, the so-called depressed elk population should be expected. It may have desirable effects such as allowing plant succession to maintain better watershed health and giving the forest a



The federally protected Gray Wolf (*Canis lupis*), photo by Aaron Frizzell

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needed rest.

Much of the Clearwater elk herd is within wilderness or roadless areas proposed for wilderness designation under Rockies Prosperity Act. Wilderness designation mandates natural processes shape the character of the area. Wilderness is where predators can play their role in the system. Allowing game-farming in Wilderness, as it seems to be proposed by the Idaho Fish and Game, is contrary to the spirit and letter of the Wilderness Act.

*Wilderness Kept Wild and Free!*

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game recently forwarded a proposal to the US Forest Service requesting permission to land helicopters in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The ostensible reason for desecrating the wilderness in this way is to place radio collars on wolves.

As written into the Wilderness Act of 1964, helicopter landings in wilderness are illegal, except under rare circumstances such as an emergency. It is doubtful that under the circumstances, radio collaring of wolves would meet those rare circumstances.

US Forest Service, Region I told the Idaho Fish and Game such a proposal would require regular public involvement through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and even then, there were no guarantees that the project would be approved. That means that the specious proposal can't be rushed for the Selway-Bitterroot or the northern portion of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

However, the Regional Forester from Region IV said the Forest Service would consider looking at the proposal through a categorical exclusion, which is a brief process excluded from normal analysis and public involvement. Region IV manages the lands south of the Salmon River. There was only a brief comment period over the holidays. In spite of this, over one hundred people submitted comments.

Citizens and conservation groups told the Forest Service that helicopter landings in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness was not in keeping with the spirit or letter of the Wilderness Act. Indeed, the Fish and Wildlife

Service found it unnecessary to collar wolves in the Wilderness via helicopter and obtained enough information about wolves outside of wilderness to manage them. The real reason the Idaho Department of Fish and Game wanted to collar wolves in the Wilderness was to kill them. Radio-collared wolves are easier to track and kill.

Friends of the Clearwater joined with Wilderness Watch, Western Watersheds Project, Idaho Sporting Congress, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, The Wilderness Society, Boulder White Clouds Council, and Idaho Conservation League to mount a legal challenge to the proposal. Laird Lucas of Advocates for the West prepared to represent this coalition in court.

The lawsuit turned out to be unnecessary for the time being. Region IV reached the same conclusion as Region I: this proposal will have to be analyzed through regular democratic channels. It is not a project that can be approved on the State's whim.

In the Lewiston Morning Tribune of 8/25/05, retired University of Idaho wildlife professor, Dr. Jim Peek wrote an article about the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and why he believed it was the nearest natural area in the Rockies south of Canada. With regard to wildlife and predators he said: "Our influences on big game and its predators can be rectified by modifying harvests to levels more compatible with wilderness values. Major problems are the minimal monitoring of big game populations at present and the prevailing adverse attitude toward big predators that influences management."

Predators like wolves embody wilderness and wildness. Rather than jumping ahead with a killing program, Idaho needs to allow natural processes to occur in these wild areas, to defer to the Nez Perce Tribe who has a decade of wolf management experience (which was gained after the State of Idaho refused to participate in the wolf recovery program), and listen to experts like Dr. Peek who have studied elk in the Clearwater for decades. Given the track record, it is not likely the State of Idaho's government will take such a wise course.

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## Talking with the Trout

By Gary Macfarlane

(Note: The following article comes from a phone and email interview by Gary Macfarlane with former Friends of the Clearwater Program Director, Larry McLaud. Larry is AKA Lorenzo Trout; hence the title. Larry left Moscow, ID recently and moved to LaGrande, Oregon where he is working for the Hells Canyon Preservation Council as its Conservation Director. Larry deserves much praise for his years of work for little money on behalf of the wild Clearwater country and he remains a strong member and supporter of Friends of the Clearwater. Friends of the Clearwater has a memorandum of understanding with six other organizations, including Hells Canyon Preservation Council. Thus, we will still be in contact with Larry and continue to work with him.

Finally, apologies to Larry for any errors in this interview. I took notes as fast as I could.)

GM: What advice would you have for Friends of the Clearwater members, board and staff towards being more successful in protecting the Clearwater?

LM: Make sure you are connected to the spirit of the Clearwater. The spirit will guide you. (I detected a verbal smile over the phone, an admonition for us all to get out into the wild Clearwater country).

GM: How are you doing? (Larry recently had a mild heart attack, in spite of showing no risk factors.)

LM: Larry is doing well. (another verbal smile.). I am involved in work and look forward to the challenges which are many. There are forest plan revisions taking place in the Hells Canyon/Wallowas/Blue Mountains, and there are land exchanges and other projects.

GM: What is your biggest frustration with FOC or conservation work.

LM: The challenges of working on conservation issues in Idaho have always offered plenty of opportunities to educate the public as to how to better

relate to their surroundings. Many people take for granted the wonderful landscape in their backyard and often forget how valuable it is to their well being. Perhaps we should promote trips to LA or Chicago to give them something to compare.

GM: How did you get started doing conservation work?

LM: I got started working for conservation after I had spent many pack trips into public lands and realized we all need to work for protection for the places we love. Without defenders, public land would become wasteland abused by extraction industries.

GM: How long have you been doing this?

LM: I have been tied to the outdoors all my life in one way or another. I will always have a bond with wild places, people and things.

GM: What has changed over the years?

LM: Change has always been part of the landscape. The need for wild places continue to be more valuable each year as we lose places and the desire for more builds. The value of wild places continues to rise and far outweigh liquidating them.

GM: Do you have any particular memories about the Clearwater country you would like to share?

LM: There are a lot of good memories. It is hard to pick one. The trip I took with Kristin in the Selway Craggs in 2000 was one (Kristin Rutherford was FOCs first staff member and now is an attorney in Portland for Oregon Natural Desert Association). The colors were fabulous.

This fall trip with Kristin to the Selway Craggs in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness started at Big Fog Saddle on a bright sunny day with major autumn colors including huckleberry. We walked to the Cove Lakes and on to Old Man

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## Controversy over commodification

Opinion piece (*Look for more on this topic in subsequent Defenders*)

By Erin Drake

As the current presidential administration continues to sacrifice environmental integrity and ignores the importance of sustainable practices, environmentalists are left scratching their heads, struggling to preserve and protect a concept alienated in the rush of today's economically driven society.

It has been said that the best way to effectively influence a powerhouse organization, like the federal government, is to present the issue in terms that are a priority of the organization. In corporate America, money speaks loudest, and just about anyone can understand dollars and cents figures. So that leaves the question, can we as an environmental community adequately commodify the environment, and if so, is it even appropriate to place a dollar amount on something so intrinsically-defined?

A battle within the environmental world has spurred as a result of this commodification issue. One side argues that areas like wilderness, which exist as a reminder of the last remaining remnants of a wild and public frontier, should not be partnered with a price tag simply to satisfy the money-driven "big wigs" in Washington. In reluctant contrast, others believe this ideal resistance is unrealistic in a hierarchical society that delegates ultimate decision-making power to the "big wigs" who have no conceptual under-

standing beyond economics.

Supporters of environmental economics argue three main points (ecosystemvaluation.org):

1. Monetary estimates help justify and decide how to allocate public spending on conservation, preservation, and restoration initiatives.
2. Commodification allows for the framing of alternatives in a cost-benefit comparison (extraction, preservation).
3. Economics is universally understood. Someone who has never experienced wilderness first-hand can conceptually understand its value through econom-

ics as opposed to attempting to understand intrinsic value that they personally have never experienced.

But those who oppose commodification believe that the true value of public lands like wilderness, is inconceivable in economic terms. Placing a price tag on public natural resources and ecosystem services is arguably privatizing and diminishing the beauty of publicly-owned lands:

everyone has equal share of all land declared public, but as soon as a price is assigned, suddenly the focus shifts from the public to private sector. Assigning monetary value foreshadows inevitable bidding action in the future, a battle between wealthy, resource-hungry organizations that are willing to pay the highest dollar for the exploitation of public goods.

Non-supporters of commodification also believe that any sector of economics, including environmental economics, can be evaluated to support the concerned/interested party. Assigning a particular value to an ecosystem service, like wetland water purification, will vary in amount, depending on the



Commodification of nature begs the question; is protecting wildlands and wild creatures such as the northern pygmy owl, "worth it?" *Photo by Aaron Lang*

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## The Last of the Big Wild

Opinion piece

by Mollie Eastman

What do we have here in Idaho that we have lost in 99% of our nation? The last of the big wild is here. That is why I live in Idaho; this is her drawing card. The Big Wild is the largest piece of roadless land in the lower 48, and only Alaska is wilder than Idaho.

What is roadless? Roadless is a piece of land sandwiched between heavily logged Federal land, roaded and clearcut, and wilderness. Roadless is federally protected and managed wild places that draw customers who buy from Eddy Bauer, Cabela's, and LL Bean and horse-users, who buy from Ray Holes and outfitter suppliers. Our roadless areas make a steady living for families who get paid to bring America to her wild places. Do people come here from Germany, Mississippi, Virginia, and Washington DC, to see our clearcut forests? No silly, to see the last of the big wild. That's our drawing card. How do I know? I live here, and I have met these people in our forests. A few brave souls, the remnant, come by themselves with no outfitter, with only a map for a guide.

I have met the loners, too, and the historic trail researchers. Once every 13 years the Appaloosa Club brings a large group here to our forests, to re-trace what is left of the Nee- Mee- Poo or Nez Perce National Historic Trail. My mother, from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, told me, "Idaho is the best kept secret in the Nation," because our big wild places are still wild. Wilderness in Wyoming and Colorado is over-run with people, especially during hunting season.

A young man from Georgia worked and saved for years to afford a trip to the lost places in our National Forests, which belong to us all. He went to a large wilderness place in Colorado, which is small, compared to Idaho's. The wilderness in Colorado is crowded with many users--backpackers and horseman--who desire to "get away from it all." The trail is crowded. How do I know? I used to live there, searching for a wild place. Why? Because wild places are a treasure. My dentist said he would rather dig ditches in Idaho, than make great money in L.A. Why? I lived in California, and I know the answer. I, too, took a pay cut to live here in Idaho

because we have something better than money here. We have the last of the big wild.

People who have been there know that the big wild is a spiritual place. It is a place where man is not in control, where it is quiet, and we are small. It is a place to renew and slow down and heal. Teddy Roosevelt was a sickly young man who went to the Wild West, and grew strong. We set aside great huge vast tracts of land, so we would always have our wild places. Every ten or fifteen years our wild places grow smaller. The current roadless areas on the Clearwater Forest are smaller than they were in the last Forest Plan in 1987. Why? Everybody wants a piece of the Big Wild. Why? It has value!

The motorized Forest recreation user wants it, because the Big Wild is a Special place. Jim Caswell (Governor's Office of Species Conservation & former Clearwater National Forest supervisor) said in the Clearwater Tribune, "We have logged 1/2 of the Clearwater Forest. Now that I am gone, we can figure out how to log the other half." The motorized users could use the half of the Forest that is already heavily roaded. They want the other half too, because it is a special place. How do I know? I live here, and I have seen the wild places overrun with 4-wheelers and motorcycles. It will take many years for it to recover. See for yourself. Walk the Lewis and Clark Trail from Lolo Pass, a 3-day journey over land that is 3/4 clearcut and 1/4 standing timber. I have. So have others. The Forest Service says the historic trail no longer exists there, because they don't want you there. You might find out if you go there that you have been lied to.

Clearcuts do not produce sustained yield. They produce liquidation, or short-term gain. They ruin the land for its recreation, hunting and tourist values. They put Eddie Bauer out of business. No tents and backpackers are found there, only brush 10 feet tall where timber once was abundant. They clearcut for Forest Health. Bud Moore (former Forest Service ranger on the Lochsa) told me so. Bud was lied to, and he believed the lies. When Bud was a boy, it was a wild roadless place. Now it has been lost forever. I will never discover the primitive trails that Bud

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## We Want Wilderness... Don't We? Debate Over the Boulder-White Clouds

By TinaMarie Ekker  
Reprinted from *Wilderness Watch* with permission.

### An Inspired Vision

The wild heart of Idaho sprawls across the central part of the state. This rugged region cradles the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, and the congressionally protected Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Sawtooth Wilderness. Also shaping this landscape of mountains, forests, meadows, and rivers are the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains (BWC), home to salmon, wolves, bears, marmots, cirque basins and snowy peaks. The headwaters of the Salmon River form here, tumbling down from the craggy high country to wander northward in looping meanders through the wildflower meadows of Stanley Basin that lies between the Sawtooth Mountains and the Boulder-White Clouds.

The heart of Idaho is a landscape of Big Wilderness. The Boulder-White Cloud Mountains stretch into the sky for 40 miles north from Ketchum, Idaho to the Salmon River canyon. This is the largest remaining national forest roadless area outside of Alaska. The BWC's are America's last chance to designate a half-million acre intact national forest wilderness in the lower 48 states.

The BWC highly deserve inclusion in our National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) and should receive the fullest protections afforded by the Wilderness Act.

A vision to gain statutory protection for this wild region began taking shape many decades ago and made substantial headway in 1972 when far-sighted Idahoans gained congressional designation for the 750,000 acre Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA). The SNRA includes the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains, the Stanley Basin, and the Sawtooth Wilderness. That legislation directed the USFS to study the BWC for possible future designation as wilder-

ness. Creation of the SNRA remains one of Idaho's proudest achievements.

The purposes of the SNRA are to protect salmon and other fisheries; conserve the scenic, natural, historic, pastoral, wildlife, and other aesthetic values of the area; and utilize natural resources such as timber, grazing, and minerals to the extent their utilization will not impair the conservation purposes



East Fork Salmon River, Salmon-Challis National Forest, *photo by Chuck Pezeshki*

for which the SNRA was established.

The SNRA legislation directs that the Sawtooth Wilderness shall be administered in accordance with the SNRA legislation and the Wilderness Act, whichever is most protective.

We have inherited this legacy of seeking lasting protection for the wild heart of Idaho. The vision to fully protect the SNRA has been entrusted to us for safekeeping. This legacy is not ours to squander or to compromise to the political expediencies of our own time. Gaining full wilderness protection for

**Boulder-White Clouds, page 13**

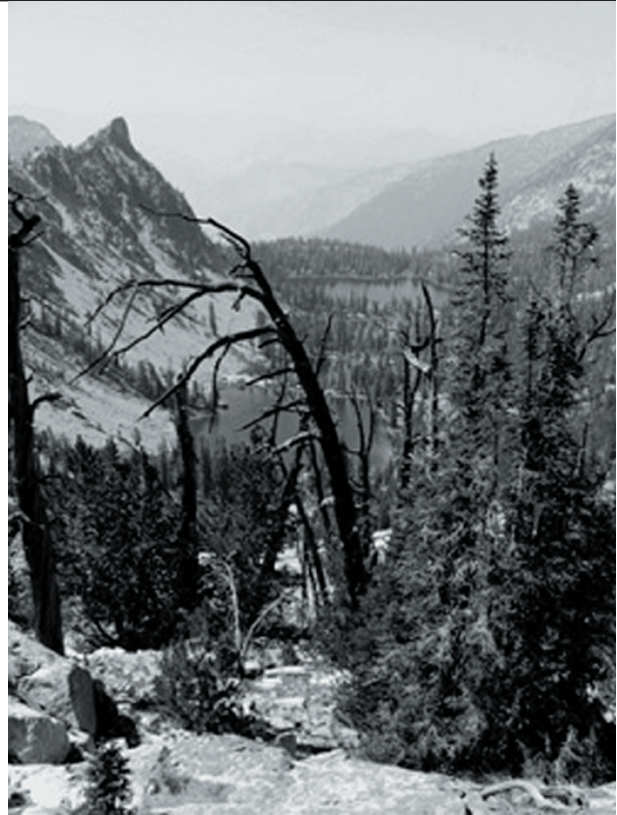
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## Appreciating Fire Season in Central Idaho

by Lynne Nelson, board member

There is nothing quite as exciting as preparing for an 8-day wilderness backpack. Gathering and inspecting all equipment, dreaming up new ultra-light culinary sensations for the backcountry and, of course, catching up with friends to share your adventure. We always plan to pare down this year, 'go light'; but inevitably we find we've duplicated and even triplicated many items, again. 'Just in case' we mutter and quietly stuff our packs at the trailhead. We are excited about this area we have never seen, the Big Horn Craigs and their lake basins in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. We are excited to see this rugged country, to see this land of spectacular lake basins and to travel in wilderness where people are mere visitors. Why do I enjoy wilderness travel so much, I think to myself? It's a hot day even for August. Our first stop is 7-8 miles in, 1500 ft elevation gain, not to mention the 600 ft loss in the middle of the trek, twice. Why am I excited to walk in this place? My answers are so simple a 6-year old child could have come up with them. I want to see nature's best works of art unmarked by man. I want to hear only wind and water, see birds and wildlife at peace in their home environment. I want to understand on some small scale what it must have been like to travel this place 100 years ago and truly feel that you are at mercy of and a part of this land. We want to see everything Nature has, even fire.

At the start of the trip we were already aware that there were two, mostly contained fires west of the middle fork of the Salmon River, west of our intended travel. We figured we would be enduring some smoke and ash. This was no deterrent. We did not know, however, that as we were walking into the wilderness, a new fire was emerging in the Waterfall Creek drainage adjacent our planned exit route. We began our hike in a mild forest smoke but this proved no impairment to the beauty of the trail or our enthusiasm. At most every turn there was evidence of fire. Not necessarily recent fire, but fire was always hidden in the landscape. Large downed logs revealed the typical charred clues to their passing, and standing ones as well. Some of the rusty orange snags stood straight and tall, while others were whorled and twisted as if frozen in some majestic



Terraced lakes in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, *photo by Lynne Nelson*

dancers pose.

Even though the trees appeared dead, they teemed with activity and life. Lewis's and three-toed woodpeckers called from their branches while red-breasted nuthatches darted back and forth storing their precious morsels in the large crevices. These regal, twisted tree remnants consistently dotted the landscape even among already older, green living trees yielding evidence of fire from many decades past.

Hiking to the highest knobs of the trail, we could see that often the twisted trees outlined patches of forest openings and foliage changes. This mottled pattern of brilliant color change is often referred to as a mosaic pattern. The irregularity in this pattern of openness and forest edge creates a large surface area for wildlife habitat diversity. We recollected that even below the visual surface, fire shapes the richness of forest character by speeding nutrient recycling and controlling disease. As sure as one cannot judge a person's character by their appearance, fire's many contri-

**Bighorn Craigs, page 14**

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## Boulder-White Clouds, continued

the BWC is part of this treasured vision that has yet to become a reality.

### *Politics versus Protection*

Conservationists have tried a number of times over the years to gain wilderness designation for the B-WC. Unfortunately, Idaho politics have nixed new wilderness proposals in the state for the last twenty-five years. However, that situation may be changing.

In May, Representative Mike Simpson (R-ID) introduced the Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act (CIEDRA) that would designate 300,000 acres of Wilderness in the BWC. The bill is supported by the Idaho Conservation League, The Wilderness Society, and the Pew Campaign for America's Wilderness.

So, why are nearly three dozen regional and national organizations, including Wilderness Watch, Idaho Wildlife Federation, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, the Sierra Club, and a coalition of retired SNRA managers opposing the new legislation? For the answer, one must look to the devil in the details.

Unlike the visionary 1972 legislation that established the SNRA, CIEDRA would un-do many existing protections, undermine the SNRA's conservation and aesthetic purposes, grant troubling statutory rights to certain special interests, and designate wilderness on paper while simultaneously authorizing a number of incompatible activities in wilderness. CIEDRA would also preclude stronger protections for the SNRA in the future.

The SNRA and spectacular Boulder-White Cloud Mountains deserve far better. America can and should do much better than CIEDRA to protect the wild heart of Idaho.

### *Dancing with the Devil*

#### Undermining Existing SNRA Protections

A primary outcome of CIEDRA is that it would grant certain special interests a statutory right to engage in particular activities: Motorized recreationists, Equestrian recreationists, Com-

mercial outfitters, and State fish & game managers.

Turning certain activities into statutory rights severely restricts the ability of land managers to take administrative steps to protect the SNRA, even when the activities are causing resource damage and visitor use conflicts. Modifying or limiting activities that have become statutory rights would require another act of congress.

CIEDRA would classify the eastern half of the SNRA as the "Boulder-White Clouds Management Area" (BWCMA). Although the BWCMA would still be within the SNRA, its statutory purpose would be radically modified. Motorized recreation would become the new priority use on 200,000 acres in the SNRA. CIEDRA mandates 'no net loss' in motorized routes -- under CIEDRA, if severe resource damage requires closing an area in the BWCMA to motorized use managers must compensate by opening an equal number of miles to motorized use elsewhere.

The visionary 1972 SNRA legislation places top priority on preserving the scenic, natural, wildlife, and wilderness values of the SNRA; CIEDRA turns it into a motorized playground. USFS data indicate that motorized recreation accounts for 5% of current visitor use in the SNRA; CIEDRA commits nearly a third of the SNRA to ATV's, motor-bikes, and snowmobiles.

CIEDRA would also release 86,000 acres of BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) to priority use for motorized recreation. In contrast, BLM is currently obligated to protect the wilderness values of these WSA's from harm.

The visionary 1972 SNRA legislation places emphasis on acquiring adjacent private lands to enhance and protect the scenic, undeveloped qualities of the SNRA. CIEDRA would give away absolutely free of charge approximately 3,000 acres of federal public land to local communities and counties in central Idaho for sale and development. This includes the alarming new precedent of giving away land within the SNRA for trophy home development.

If conservationists do not oppose bills that privatize lands within congressionally protected areas such as the Sawtooth NRA, there will be little moral or political ground on which to defend future privatizing of lands within other protected areas

## Boulder-White Clouds, page 15

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## Bighorn Crags, continued

Contributions to the landscape cannot be appreciated based on appearance alone.

Meanwhile, the newly emerged Waterfall fire created a stark smoky, billowing plume on the western ridge line which made clear the close proximity of the blaze. We felt concern but also excitement to potentially be able to witness (from a distance) this landscape-shaping process in action. We watched this ridge daily, looking for any cues to suggest the fire's movement. We eventually hiked to the ridge-line and looked down into the Waterfall Creek drainage, partly hoping to see a real fire in action, and partly hoping that we weren't being stupid in our choice of day hike. The haze was so thick; we could barely see the triplet lakes below us. The opposite ridgeline was scarcely a shadow. The smoke and ash caused a mild burning sensation in our eyes, enough to make tears. The birds and mammals, however, seemed unconcerned by the presence of this smoky event and continued on their daily activities as if this fire-laden environment was a very normal occurrence. And I guess really, it was.

The animals continued on their journey and so did we. We altered our trek slightly to avoid the descent adjacent to the smoky drainage. We headed on a northerly loop and maintained good vision of the billowing plume from the west. The Waterfall creek fire intermittently serenaded us with ash and debris by day and we marveled at the spectacular orange sunsets it created in the evening. Every day we tabulated how much smoke we could see compared to the days before, characterized the wind and movement, and speculated where the fire might travel. Similar to our animal friends, 'our fire' had become apart of our lives in the wilderness. The fire slept only briefly during our stay. An early snowfall

blanketed us one evening, but a day or two later, the smoky plume returned to the west.

As it came time for us to leave our temporary wilderness home, we continually watched 'our fire' over our shoulders. We noted from the highest points on our trail how the fire had appeared to have moved north and across the river drainage. We could also see from our vantage that new plumes were now dancing from the southern-most ridges, likely at the boundary of the wilderness area. Sadly, we knew that any fire outside the wilderness boundary would be 'dealt with' in ways that often markedly differed from Nature's intentions. As we hiked in heavier smoke and haze, I began to think about the land and all we had witnessed; how she uses and needs this fire. I thought about how mankind has, for too long, arrogantly attempted to tell the land just what she needs--open roads, no fires, no grizzlies...no fun. I thought about what all of central Idaho must have been like 100 years ago, before man's 'grooming'. As we rounded the last ridge of our trek at the edge of the wilderness, several helicopters were observed racing toward the new southern plumes. The choppers were coming, the trucks were coming, the wild character of the land would be leaving.

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## Boulder-White Clouds, continued

- including within designated Wilderness. The slippery slope could quickly become a mudslide. Undermining Wilderness Protections

CIEDRA abandons America's last opportunity to designate an intact national forest wilderness of a half-million acres or more in the contiguous U.S. Instead, CIEDRA would designate 300,000 acres of wilderness fragmented into four parcels with three motorized recreation corridors separating the pieces.

It would truly be a shame to split up the BWC to accommodate a motorcycle trail -- especially since CIEDRA would dedicate an additional 200,000 acres of the SNRA to permanent priority use for motorized recreation!

CIEDRA would undermine traditional wilderness protections by giving state and local agencies equal authority with federal land managers for fire management activities in wilderness, including decision-making regarding the use of helicopters, bulldozers, and chainsaws in wilderness. CIEDRA also weakens the Wilderness Act's provision governing motorized access to mining claims.

CIEDRA would harm and disrupt wildlife. It would allow state game and fish managers to routinely use motor vehicles and aircraft in wilderness to survey, capture, transplant, monitor, and manage common game species including elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and fish. It would allow lethal predator control, stream poisoning, and introduction of non-native species. With CIEDRA, motors win and wildlife loses.

CIEDRA would guarantee horse use above all other forms of wilderness recreation. While an appropriate level of horse use is a compatible activity under the Wilderness Act, CIEDRA would transform horse use into a statutory right in the BWC Wilderness: "Nothing shall preclude horseback riding or entry of recreational saddle or packstock into the wilderness...." No other recreational group has a statutory right to use Wilderness, nor should they -- such decisions are best made with ongoing public involvement in public land management decisions.

CIEDRA would further tie the hands of managers by granting commercial outfitters a statutory right to use packstock in wilderness. If CIEDRA passes it won't be long before outfitters elsewhere will demand similar 'rights.'

CIEDRA's proponents say this bill is our best chance in 25 years to protect the BWC as wilderness. However, with all of its wilderness-weakening provisions, restrictions on management options, and statutory rights for certain user groups, CIEDRA offers only a watered down, motorized and manipulated version of wilderness.

The vision to protect the SNRA was shaped by a desire to preserve the authentic wild character of this sprawling landscape. The wild character of the BWC's

should not be sliced up, shrunk, and molded to fit CIEDRA and the politics of today. We should keep the SNRA vision alive and encourage land managers to hold the line on motorized encroachments so that when the time is right we will have the opportunity to designate a large, authentic BWC Wilderness in the wild heart of Idaho.



Alturas Lake, Sawtooth National Recreation Areas, *photo by Chuck Pezeshki*

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## Last of the Big Wild, continued

walked. I am only 30 years younger than him and in that time we have lost a 1000 year-old treasure forever. When will the timber industry have enough? Only when it is all gone, history can tell us the answer to that one. When I was born the entire Na-



Mountain Mollie pointing out the subtleties of an Indian-peeled ponderosa along the Lolo Trail, *photo by Gene Eastman*

tional Forest System was a Big Wild place, now 1/2 of the Clearwater has been tamed, and they are after the other half. Who owns the National Forest?--not the big timber companies. The American people do. Entire National Forests have died due to clearcuts. Who gave away our land? Did you?

My logger friend wanted cedar that was planned to be burned. It would feed his family for two entire years. The Clearwater National forest burned it. It was too much paperwork to sell it, and he could not have it for free. That was Al Morris. He just wanted to make a living on something that was thrown away. Ed Berreth, another logger friend, has a similar tale. I saw a burn pile on Eldorado Creek one spring. It was larger than my house, and had 500-year-old Cedar in it. I said, "They logged the Forest just to burn it!"

Why does the Forest Service want more timber ground than they had yesterday? They wasted our land. We paid for it. We are the American people. Un-managed land is our greatest treasure. Bud Moore learned that the hard way. I learned from him and from what I have

seen. I have seen these things, because I live here. Keep our wild places wild, it's a treasure for tomorrow. It is a treasure for our children, and our grand-children. It is Idaho's greatest treasure. Let's not lose it. Not on my watch! Not on your watch! Not ever! It is too great a treasure to throw away.

*This piece is by Mountain Mollie Eastman. As she explains, "I was given my nickname, Mountain Mollie by a preacher man in Durango, Colorado, who was always talking about me. Mollie? Mollie who? No one knew my last name. "You know Mollie, Mountain Mollie." Strangers in Durango knew my name, not many city-raised girls go to the mountains for years, alone. I went for 4 years, to heal. I grew strong. I got well. I am another Teddy Roosevelt. He saved the land for me. The wilderness can heal.*

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## Commodification, continued

interested party who is evaluating the service. This lack of uniformity results in skepticism and uncertainty across the board, from those in support of the environment (high prices) to industry-supported interests hoping to downplay the importance of these services, who therefore assign lower economic value.

Perhaps the best approach to this issue is to treat each situation as an individual decision that must be thoroughly and inconclusively contemplated. Commodification is not black and white; completely avoiding economic price tags, while ideal, is unrealistic in certain situations. We live in a world dominated by money, and sometimes compromises must be made. But this does not mean those compromises must result in the “big wigs” using their power and fear tactics to dominate the situation.

We as an environmental community are a powerful group of united citizens, strengthened by our passion and unconditional love for the environment that surrounds us. By staying informed, knowledgeable, and being approachable to other community interests, we can present our arguments in a way that benefit not only Mother Nature, but the people who inhabit her as well.

While celebrating the occasions where intrinsic value is enough to protect the environment, and presenting the most compelling arguments for preservation when commodification is

necessary, we as an environmental community have a tremendously important role to play in protecting the natural world, and we should all strive to be well prepared for whichever situation should arise.

*Erin Drake served as Education & Outreach for Friends of the Clearwater during the autumn of last year. She is currently pursuing her education in western Washington, which includes: environmental law and policy, public relations, and Spanish.*

## Forest Service Violation, continued

News, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth was quoted as saying the following about the timber harvesting, roadbuilding, and livestock grazing concerns held by many Americans. He called these concerns: 1) “bogus,” 2) “great diversions,” and 3) “relatively unimportant matters that take up a lot of our (Forest Service) time and effort.”

In the July 5, 2003 issue of the Lewiston Morning Tribune newspaper, Chief Dale Bosworth was quoted as saying the following at a meeting in Seeley Lake, Montana.

“Environmentalists are missing the point when they claim logging and mining threaten forests in Montana and Idaho.”

“The recent report listing the Bitterroot National Forest as one of the nations most endangered is nonsense.”

“Greenpeace is falling back on the same old, tired arguments of 15 years ago.”

Just one quick glance at the guilty verdicts against the Forest Service in the 9th and 10th circuit courts since January 1994 shows that the opposite is true. These so-called “old issues” (logging and grazing) formed the basis for more than 70% of the guilty verdicts against the Forest Service. One can see that the so-called old issues are very much alive and well in 2005. These issues will never become “old issues” until the Forest Service stops breaking the law to maximize their timber output and stops breaking the law by permitting grazing allotments where they don’t belong.

*Please look for part 3 of our feature piece by Dick Artley in the upcoming spring issue of the Clearwater Defender or read it on the web in its entirety at [www.wildrockies.org/foc](http://www.wildrockies.org/foc)*

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## Lessons from Alaska: Could Central Idaho's Wildlands Complex/Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem become the next ANWR?

by Chris Norden, board member

As a long-time student of environmental history, I make a habit of looking at current events in the USA and elsewhere, and then trying to answer the "what next" question. Certainly one of the high profile issues of the past decade or so has been the campaign to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling. While it would certainly be premature at this point to declare victory, or to say that ANWR is now safe, we can hope that present sentiments on the part of the American electorate may well result in diminished numbers come November for the pro-drilling contingent in Congress. And to be honest, it is testament to the effectiveness of the protect ANWR campaign that a significant number of Republicans went squishy on the drilling plans when push came to shove.

At the same time, it is equally the case that less aggressively publicized places in our country are still very much at risk, perhaps first and foremost among these being the roadless but still unprotected wildlands of central Idaho and other parts of the northern Rockies region. The Missoula-based Alliance for the Wild Rockies, of which Friends of the Clearwater is a member group, has drawn a considerable degree of public attention to the Northern Rockies region with their Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act campaign, recently renamed the Northern Rockies Prosperity Act. Interestingly, the very breadth of the NREPA/NRPA campaign makes it difficult to do what the ANWR campaign did most successfully, which has been to convey to

Americans throughout the country a very concrete and visceral sense of place--a sense that the calving ground for the Porcupine caribou herd is a known and understood and felt place, even for those who have not been there. Having visited ANWR twice, I can attest to the effectiveness of the "sense of place" which the ANWR campaign has managed to convey.

As members of Friends of the Clearwater, we may want to consider this a challenge--to figure out ways to bring this other great wildlands complex to the attention of our fellow Americans, and give the central-Idaho wildlands complex a sense of place as definite, powerful, and compelling as that which many now feel for ANWR. We could go a step further, and speak of a sense of ownership--a reciprocal belonging that entitles us to demand good stewardship of this massive and largely unknown and unvisited chunk of public land. And a reciprocal belonging that obligates us to speak on behalf of the land, of its living inhabitants, and of our own future generations, to whom this land belongs as well.

Each of us has a commitment to the Wild Clearwater country, else I would not be writing this, and you would not be reading my words. Each of us has a unique set of talents: some are good with written or spoken words; some are good with visual images, artwork, photographs, graphic design, or computers; some are good teachers, either of children or adults; some are good at making money, and others are good at giving money. My challenge to you is this--figure out what you are good at, and put that talent to use in this fairly specific way: to make the central Idaho wildlands

**Lessons from Alaska, next page**

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## Lessons from Alaska, continued

known to others as vividly and viscerally as you can. Spread the word. If what you feel is love for this land, make that love known. If what you feel is indignation and even anger, take a deep breath, then make those feelings known as well. If what you feel is responsibility, obligation, gratitude, or something else, try to direct that energy outward, and try to make this place as real as possible to as many other people as possible. It's all we have, and it's incomparably excellent!

### Book Review:

#### Hike Lewis and Clark's Idaho

Author: Mary Aegerter and Steve F. Russell

By Gary Macfarlane

Local author, Mary Aegerter, is well known to Lewiston Morning Tribune readers. She writes the hiking column.

She is also a good Friend of the Clearwater and an experienced hiker. Her book, Hike Lewis and Clark's Idaho, is an informative guide to those wishing to explore the trails in the Lochsa Country.

Two hundred years ago, Lewis and Clark followed Nez Perce trails in what is now the Clearwater National Forest. This year is the 200th anniversary of the expedition's return from the Pacific through Idaho. This book details many of the trails near that route.

One of the things I like is that the book doesn't reveal too much about longer trails that intersect the shorter hikes described in the book. No doubt, Mary has been on all of these trails and knows them well. She was wise to omit too much detail, and in so doing invites readers to experience these wild places by venturing deeper into them.

The informative side-bars to each hike provide natural and cultural history of the area and/or personal experiences along the trail. Hike Lewis and Clark's Idaho is an interesting addition to your hiking library.

Hike Lewis and Clark's Idaho can be

Lake where we went for a wonderful cool swim on a warm day. We bumped into Sarah Walker on the trail and had a nice chat. On to the ridge where we camped for the night, a thunderstorm blew in and we relocated camp off the ridge in the rain and avoided lightning strikes. We watched a great horned owl watch us from an old growth Douglas fir, what large eyes they have. The nearby Jesse Pass is a favorite spot of mine. I visualized having an FOC office at the pass. The air and the water are special in this magical spot. Fenn Mountain, highest point in the Craigs, was just to the west. We bushwacked along the ridge back to find the trail and camped the night in a large meadow on one of the last summer like days left for the year. The next day we hiked out in between eating huckleberries and being part of the wonderful pristine place. Wild country re-energized our spirit and let us be grateful for the peace and beauty of the Clearwater high country. The road back to Route 12 is long winding and full of bumps so Kristin ended up running down the road rather than riding in the truck. (Note: The stories I heard from both of them immediately after this trip were truly remarkable.)

GM: Any last words of advice or any last thoughts to convey?

LM: The wolf issue is crucial, though it may not appear to be big. This issue is emblematic of wildlands in a way and wolves need to be defended. Wolves are a keystone species; wildlands and wildlife are inseparable. If we can't protect wolves, can we really protect other species?

Wolves are an important part of the puzzle some call an ecosystem. For example, in Idaho they have improved wild fish habitat by keeping elk, deer and moose from eating down riparian zones. Dense stream side buffers filter sediment and keep temperatures cool which is good for trout.

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

### Spring 2006 Calendar

**March 21: Coastal Disjunct Potluck**, UI professor, Steve Brunsfeld, 6:30pm, 1026 S. Logan St., Moscow

**March 25: Hike to Slate Creek Roadless Area**, meet 7am Rosauers, return 6:30pm

**April 11: Fire Potluck**, 6:30pm, 312 South Asbury, Moscow

**April 19: Natural History of the Clearwater on film**, by Roger Inghram, co-sponsored by Palouse Audubon, 1912 Builing Moscow, 7:30 pm

**April 29: Crepe Making for Ren Fair**,

**May 6-7: Renaissance Fair**, 10am - dusk, Moscow

**May 9: Paradise Ridge Potluck**, location TBA, 6:30pm

**May 20: John's Creek Hike**, meet 7am Rosauers, return 6:30pm

**June 13: Potluck, Breeding Wetland Birds of the Palouse**, UI Arboretum, 6:30pm

**June 24: Fish/Split Creek Roadless Area Hike**, meet 7am Rosauers, return 8pm

**July 11: Volleyball potluck**, East City Park, 6:30pm