



# Clearwater Defender

News of the Big Wild

A publication of  
Friends of the Clearwater

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Issued Quarterly

## U.S. Forest Service Violates Environmental Laws Part III

Richard Artley

*Editor's Note: This article is Part III of a three-part series by Richard Artley. The essay in its entirety can be read on the Friends of the Clearwater Web site at [www.wildrockies.org/foc](http://www.wildrockies.org/foc). Part I can be found in the Fall '05 Clearwater Defender, and Part II can be found in the Winter '05/'06 Defender.*



*Rapid River, roadless country in the Nez Perce NF*

Many Forest Service employees have excellent land ethics and are highly motivated to do the best thing for the resource.

Forest Service high and mid level managers and timber/road engineering employees know there is one major barrier restraining their mindless zeal to make logging and road building possible in the public forests-- the NEPA interdisciplinary team.

A NEPA interdisciplinary team includes timber and road engineering employees, plus several Forest Service employees with an array of different non-timber natural resource specialties. When these "ologists" (as they are called in the Forest Service)

do an environmental effects analysis of the project, they do not bend or change their findings to assure that the EA or EIS says the timber project's effects on their resource will be beneficial. The idea that commercial timber sale projects are being proposed to enhance the natural functioning of the forest is a laughable concept to most of these non-timber

resource specialists.

If it appears to these specialists that the timber sale and logging roads will have large adverse ecological effects (in spite of their best attempts at project design changes and mitigation), then they will do their best

to convince the district ranger to drop the project entirely. These attempts to have an ecologically harmful timber sale dropped are seldom successful when the project is essential to meet yearly timber harvest quotas for a national forest.

There are a growing number of forest service employees who love the public land intact, wild and unchanged by the human hand. However, many forest service managers view these people as not being "team players".

See U.S. Forest Service, Page 3

# *A Conservative's Prayer*

*Greg Gollberg*

*At the campfire  
As they sat they listened  
And they pondered the earth beneath their feet,  
the waters sublime, sweet air, sunshine  
Vacuous night*

*As the tinder caught  
They relaxed and wondered  
About mountains, wetlands, inlands and  
islands,  
hoarfrost, dumb luck and things lost  
To their children's children*

*While the flames grew  
They marveled and mused:  
Creation, Diversity, Sentience, Suffering,  
Extinction,  
what to make of sacred paw, noble hoof and  
crimson maw,  
The absurdity of winners and losers*

*The embers glowed  
And they sought pure white context:  
Clarity, comprehensibility, an unambiguous  
and indisputable defense,  
A vision of the essential and explanation of  
the elemental...  
Then somewhere in the forest, wolf song*

*Would the fire die?  
They stood and they heard  
They pledged to the Earth their voices  
Guaranteed their inspiration and unflinching  
determination  
The Call for the Wild!*

• • •



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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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## U.S. Forest Service

continued from page 1

As a result, the majority of these Forest Service employees who want to really protect and conserve the public land are forced into the closet. Most of them have families and children. Most of them depend on their Forest Service salary. They know that if their true feelings for the forest resources were revealed, their job would be in jeopardy.

The Administration and Forest Service have circumvented Interdisciplinary Environmental Analysis and Public Involvement Processes for many Timber Sales.

Just recently, the Administration and the Forest Service started to categorically excluded timber sales from the NEPA. If these timber sales are “categorically excluded,” the most important parts of the NEPA process that will never occur, include:

- public involvement in Federal decisions that affect public land
- determination of cumulative environmental effects of the various alternatives, when combined with past actions and reasonably foreseeable future timber sales
- the development of decision alternatives and the determination of the environmental effects of each alternative.

Projects that do qualify for a categorical exclusion are those that: 1) have been done many times before under very similar conditions with little or no environmental effect, 2) are routine actions such as mowing the lawn at an administrative unit, and 3) have no extraordinary circumstances that would potentially be affected by the project.

Even small timber sales fit none of these three circumstances above. Each timber sale is different. They all include: different locations, different proximity to running water, different road construction needs, different soils, different harvesting techniques, different timing, different wildlife habitat, and different recreation uses.

All wildland-loving Americans should write to their Congresspeople and ask that categorical exclusions for small timber sales from NEPA must not be allowed.

*[Editor's note. This use of Categorical Exclu-*

Thanks to the following foundations who have generously supported Friends of the Clearwater:

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*sions was recently successfully challenged in court. The agency is appealing the decision to a higher court.]*

American Citizens must 1) Generate a New Mission for the Forest Service, or 2) Find a New Federal Caretaker for their Public Land.

The current forest service WEB page describes the forest service mission as: “The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.”

Obviously, the Forest Service is not achieving its mission. This is especially true of the terms “diversity” and “future generations”. In fact, the Forest Service is really performing in ways that are the exact opposite of their public mission. The Forest Service has proven that it is incapable of voluntarily changing its ways. To initiate change, the American public must become non-violent citizen activists. This can only be accomplished if caring Americans do the following:

1) Write letters to your elected officials. Let politicians know that you are not happy with the way the Forest Service is caring for the public land that belongs to you. Ask the politicians to officially adjust the Forest Service mission from 1) providing moneymaking opportunities for private individuals and companies using public assets, to 2) preserving,

See U.S. Forest Service, Page 4

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## U.S. Forest Service

### Continued from Page 3

protecting, and conserving the National Forests, which is what the vast majority of the 293 million National Forest owners want. Finally, tell these politicians that if they will not pursue this Forest Service mission change, you intend to vote for someone who will.

2) Write letters and have face-to-face meetings with local Forest Service managers. This is where the real truth behind a project that seems potentially harmful to the environment may be divulged. Ask Forest Service Responsible Officials to show you how and why they know the project is needed.

Then ask them to justify what was written in the Purpose and Need section of the NEPA document they just signed and approved. If they are unable to explain the reason they need and want the project to your satisfaction, tell them you are not satisfied with their answers. Next, ask the Responsible Official to explain their real reason for wanting the project. Ask them why the Purpose and Need section of the NEPA document did not reflect this. Ask them why they felt the real reason should be kept secret from the public.

If your interview with the Forest Service Responsible Officials made it this far, consider yourself lucky. Soon, you will be escorted from the room by an armed Forest Service law enforcement officer. When this happens, make it clear to the Responsible Officials that: 1) you plan to appeal the project, and 2) you will begin laying the groundwork for litigation. As you leave the room, you might also mention that if their future performance as a public servant is unacceptable, on your next visit, a newspaper reporter would accompany you.

If court seems to be your only option, there are many pro-bono attorneys who are glad to take cases like this.

3) Write letters to high-level Forest Service managers, and send a copy of each letter to your Senators and Representative. This option is where caring Americans will be least likely to get positive results to their environmental concerns. High-level Forest Service officials see these letters critical of the Forest Service every day. They already know that their management policies on public land

based on “pleasing the politicians and corporations” are unpopular with the general public. They need no more letters to tell them what they already know. These public-concern letters will quickly hit the round-file.

4) Write letters to the editor in newspapers. This may be one of the most effective things an American who is unhappy with the Forest Service mistreatment of public land can do. The Forest Service hates negative publicity. In your letter, be sure to mention the names of the politicians representing your area who could help change the Forest Service mission if they wanted to. Your letter(s) to the editor will not only inform the Forest Service that their performance has been poor, but your letter will also inform other caring people about the Forest Service mismanagement of the forests owned by the American public.

### *Conclusion*

The majority of the United States Forest Service law violations should never have happened. They were easily avoidable. These law violations were not Forest Service accidents. They were conscious decisions to break the law with the Forest Service hoping they would not get caught.

Had the Forest Service not tried to force much more natural resource commodities from the public lands than the land could sustain, the Forest Service would still be one of the most respected agencies in the federal government. Now, the Forest Service can no longer claim that distinction.

Unless things change significantly very soon, someday our children’s grandchildren’s only option to see what a real wild forest with real wild animals looked like, will be on virtual-reality CDs. It’s time for the ugly truth about the Forest Service to see the light of day. The truth has been suppressed for too long. The Forest Service must be stopped from conjuring-up projects that they call beneficial, but in reality, seriously damage the fragile ecological fabric of the public land.

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*Western Rattle Snake, file photo*



*Creek, charcoal by Elaine Green*

## **Friends of the Clearwater Makes Monthly Donations Easy**

**Amy Steele**

In 2004, Friends of the Clearwater implemented a reliable monthly donation program through PayPal, a worldwide online transaction company.

The program has helped FOC members and interested donors give a small amount each month to help support the organization's conservation programs and outreach activities. Donors can become a part of this private and secure program with the click of a mouse, and PayPal will take care of automatically deducting your selected amount and transferring the donated funds to FOC each month.

Donating Monthly through PayPal gives you:

- **Privacy:** PayPal keeps your financial information confidential from sellers
- **Ease:** You can donate with just a few clicks of the mouse
- **Trust:** PayPal's fraud protection keeps your donation secure and safe
- **Savings:** You will not receive any additional charges on top of your charitable donation
- **Flexibility:** You can donate using your credit card, debit card or bank account.

Interested donors can access the effortless donation process through the "Become a Monthly Donor" link on the FOC Web site at [www.wildrockies.org/foc](http://www.wildrockies.org/foc). Users simply click on one of the dollar amounts found in the middle of the page to donate or sign up for a PayPal account.

Monthly donations benefit Friends of the Clearwater by minimizing the organization's dependence on special fund-raising events and financial support from foundations. Not only can you lend a hand to FOC by signing up for the monthly donor program online, but also you can help reduce the use of paper and postage.

With your help, FOC can continue to successfully advocate for the permanent protection of public wildlands.



**Visit the Friends of the Clearwater  
Web site at**

***[www.wildrockies.org/foc](http://www.wildrockies.org/foc)***

**Click on the Monthly Donor link  
on the left side of the page  
to learn more about becoming a  
monthly donor.**

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## The Forgotten Forest Product: Water

**Mike Dombeck**

My daughter, Mary, is a Peace Corps volunteer in a village in Mali. Each day she gets a small amount of drinking water, which she must purify, plus two buckets of water for bathing.

We are far more fortunate here in the United States, a relatively water-rich nation. Yet even

logging and forest fire management. For water is perhaps the most important forest product.

Forests generate most of the water in the country, providing two-thirds of all the precipitation runoff-- the water that comes from the sky-- in the 48 contiguous states.

Some 14 percent of all runoff comes from the roughly 190 million acres of our national forests, which take up only eight percent of the land. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than 60 million people in 3,400 communities in 33 states rely on national forests for their drinking water. Millions more depend on state



*Lower Elk Falls, Photo by Larry McLaud*

here, water restrictions have become the norm in some parts of the country-- in the East, where supplies once seemed inexhaustible, and in the arid West, where a number of states, along with Mexico, routinely fight over the trickle from what is now the parched Colorado River.

Given such realities, I am puzzled that water rarely enters the debate as the Bush administration and interest groups argue about roadless areas,

and private forests to facilitate the refilling of aquifers from which they draw their water.

A century ago, President Theodore Roosevelt recognized the vital connection between forests and water. When Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, the first United States Forest Service chief, set up the national forest system, they talked about

**See *Forgotten Water*, page 7**

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managing for the greatest good for the greatest number-- for the long run. This was in response to the cut-and-run era of timber harvests that left the United States with 80 million acres of denuded forest known as clear-cuts, mostly in the East and upper Midwest. Roosevelt, Pinchot and other federal policy-makers were most concerned with preserving the long-term timber supply and the watershed function of the forests.

Yet in modern times, this connection has been lost. When I was in the Clinton administration, I participated in more than 100 Congressional and public hearings and fielded thousands of questions about forest policy. Then, as now, water rarely surfaced as a forest management issue. Yet water from our national forests has an economic value of more than \$3.7 billion a year, according to a Forest Service report issued in 2000.

How do forests produce and preserve water? The complex array of trees, shrubs, ground covers and roots slows run off from rain and snow, and water is purified as it percolates through the soil and into aquifers. By slowing runoff, forests also reduce floods and erosion, minimizing the sediments entering streams and rivers.

Mature forests do this work best. They have the best soil, and their mixed canopy-- a mosaic of open and closed spots among the treetops-- allows for snowfall accumulation and eventual runoff. Old trees also use less water for growth than young trees do. And as intact forests better regulate water chemistry and temperatures, they enhance habits for aquatic species.

New York City has some of the best water in the world because it maintains healthy forests in its Catskill Delaware and Croton watershed system. The E.P.A. recently warned that New York would have to spend more than \$6 billion on a purification plant if it failed to protect those watersheds. It comes as no surprise that the Bush administration is proposing new forest management policies. New administrations always bring new policies. What's unfortunate, however, is that some of these policies effectively abandon Theodore Roosevelt's long-term goals. Roosevelt valued open space preservation and resource conservation. That's why I support the recent ruling by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which upheld the ban on building roads in roughly 60 million acres of national for

est. Maintaining these areas is both prudent and conservative, especially given the explosive rate of urban expansion and the rapid decline of open space.

New national-forest planning regulations should now specify that the remaining old-growth public forests should not be harvested, since these wildlands provide the cleanest water in the country. Rather than wasting energy on the rancorous, tired debates about road building in the wilderness and old-growth forest management, the focus should now be on how to let our forests do their job of producing high-quality water. Given our water supply problems, this should be the highest priority of forest management.



*Mike Dombeck, a professor of global environmental management at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, was chief of the United States Forest Service from 1997 to 2001.*

*Special thanks to FOC monthly donors and those who have generously given this past year!*

## By Dark of Night

Will Boyd

Later this spring and under cover of darkness, a group of citizens will be sloshing around the North Fork Clearwater and Selway Rivers headlamps ablaze, peering through the mists for . . . salamanders.

Their quarry, a secretive and highly aquatic member of the Plethodontids (lungless salamanders), the Coeur d'Alene salamander (CDAS), emerges on special dank midnights and sometimes they speak . . .

The CDAS speak for the streams.

See **Salamanders**, page 9

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## Summer Reading

### Book Review

**Cougar Dave: Mountain Man of Idaho**  
by Pat Cary Peek  
Ninebark Publications. 2004.

### Gary Macfarlane

Much has been written about “Cougar” Dave Lewis, an iconic Idaho hermit, who died in 1936. This book is not only the best, but most accurate, thoroughly researched, and interesting of the accounts. Pat Cary Peek, a noted teacher, did her homework.

Dave Lewis “homesteaded” a piece of land in the middle of what is now the Frank Church-River of no Return Wilderness (NOTE: This large wilderness is centered on the Salmon River, though it includes the headwaters of the Selway, the Clearwater’s wild-est fork). Today, that homestead is an inholding in the Wilderness owned by the University of Idaho and used as a wilderness research field station. It is still remote, nearly 40 miles from the nearest road by trail.

Cougar Dave was a loner. Nevertheless, his homestead was his base of operations for his guiding and hunting business. Its attraction, then as now, was the wild and remote place. He took influential people not only from Idaho, but elsewhere on hunting trips and this led to efforts to preserve the area in the 1920s and 1930s. Amazing as it may seem today, in the early 1900s even Idaho had people elected to major political offices who wanted to protect some large swaths of wild country. (How things change). Dave Lewis had a hand in protecting wild country just as he had a hand in developing it.

Readers will find several vignettes of life in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Dave Lewis fought in what is called the Sheepeater War in 1879, another in a long line of campaigns by the US Government against the native peoples of America. It was in that campaign he first saw the spot he later homesteaded. Another is the saga of filing on his homestead on which he built his cabin in 1918; something I am not sure was legal at the time. The national forest system was generally reserved from homesteading laws, even in 1918. Even though it may not have been legal to do so (a point that would need a bit more research to validate), the Forest Service did grant him the homestead, after making him jump through some hoops. (How things stay the same). One last tidbit is the interaction between Dave, Dave’s flag on the wall of his cabin, and a “Wobbler” (a member of the Industrial Workers of the World, the union of Joe Hill and Big Bill Haywood). Needless to say, the two did not agree and Dave reportedly got the better of the encounter.

Readers who have heard or read other accounts of Cougar Dave will be especially interested in this book. When I picked up this book, I thought I knew all about this character. After all, I read about him in other accounts, spent a winter at this old homestead working for the University of Idaho’s wilderness field station, and discussed his legacy with others, including the author’s husband, Dr. Jim Peek (a retired professor of wildlife science at the University of Idaho). The stuff of legend, well that’s true. Other aspects, where he came from, when and where he was born, and what he told folks about his early life, well you’d better read the book.



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## Salamanders

Continued from Page 7

They speak for cold, clear water, for stream side seeps, for fractured rock springs in the Clearwater, the river system making up the core of their range. CDAS are found in forested river drainages from NE Washington up into southern BC across North Idaho and into western Montana.

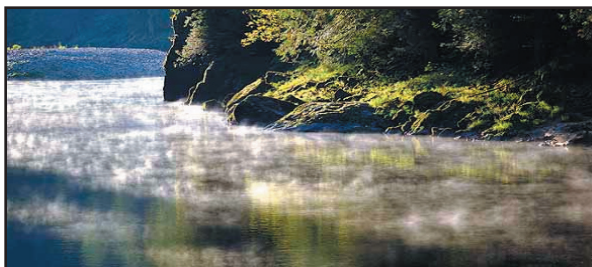
They are listed as a sensitive species throughout national forests in the region, yet the two-inch marvel has not been monitored in the Clearwater since 1994.

Starting this June, a citizen scientist monitoring project, organized and initiated by Friends of the Clearwater with technical and logistical support from Clearwater National Forest, will undertake an effort to document salamander presence or absence at traditional monitoring sites throughout the Clearwater. In its first season the project will focus on the North Fork Clearwater and Selway Rivers, as these two locations are home to many monitoring sites.

The last organized survey on the Clearwater, which took place in 1994, suggested that the species be monitored annually as well as periodically for more widespread surveys. Because salamanders are a mid-trophic level species and have proven to be a reliable litmus tests for ecosystem health, keeping track of our slimy, creepy, crawly friends is very important.

If nocturnal wanderings appeal to you and you'd like to learn more about the Wild Clearwater's wild critters we would love to have you join us in hunting down CDAS. We headed to the North Fork for the weekend of June 16-18 and will plan to go back July 16-18. Please contact us at [foc@wildrockies.org](mailto:foc@wildrockies.org) or at (208)882-9755 to be a part of the Great Salamander Hunt!

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Selway Smoke

### *Coming soon in the next Clearwater Defender:*

- Dr. Bill Willers on privatization of public land
- A review of Dr. Fred Rabe's book, "Exploring High Mountain Lakes in the Rockies." Fred is a Moscow resident and FOC member.
- Fun and educational outdoor activities.

## Summer 2006 Salmon Update

**Sam Mace**

Despite a recent rally, far fewer salmon are making their annual trek up the Columbia and Snake rivers to spawn in their natal waters. Fishermen, tribes and biologists are watching the daily counts, wondering if this year's returns will be worse than the dismal 2005 run.

With little leadership from Northwest politicians, most of the good news is coming from federal courts. Thanks to a good snow pack and a federal judge ordering the federal agencies to spill water at the dams this spring and summer, young salmon and steelhead smolts will have some of the best conditions in years for their journey down the river. This will greatly improve smolt survival and bolster the number of adult salmon returning in a few years.

Judge James Redden is also overseeing efforts among federal agencies, Northwest states and Columbia Basin Indian tribes to rewrite the federal salmon recovery plan, which the court ruled illegal in 2005. Salmon advocates hope the agencies develop a plan for real salmon recovery rather than returning to the illegal Bush Administration plan that claimed dams were part of the natural landscape, which only slowed the rate of extinction instead of recovering salmon, and cost taxpayers \$6 billion over the next 10 years.

*(Editor's note: at the close of the counting season, 124,000 chinook passed Bonneville Dam. While the run typically peaks in mid-April, significant numbers did not show*

See **Salmon**, page 10

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## Salmon

Continued from Page 9

Unfortunately, the Bush Administration continues to avoid the real problems facing wild salmon. In a thinly-veiled attempt to both deflect attention from the salmon-killing dams, the White House called for increased attention on harvest and hatcheries. Northwest congressmen Norm Dicks, Brian Baird and Greg Walden jumped on the White House bandwagon and have held field hearings in the region to divert attention from the more significant impacts of dams.

Sport, commercial and tribal fisheries only affect about five percent of most Snake River runs, while the dams are allowed to kill up to 90 percent of smolts and 25 percent of returning adults. This White House effort is not about restoring fish populations but about breaking the backs of the Northwest fishing businesses and anglers who have been some of the strongest proponents of removing the four lower Snake River dams to restore wild salmon and steelhead.

The case for dam removal was significantly bolstered last fall when Don Chapman – a widely respected fisheries biologist who had opposed dam removal as a utility-industry consultant – publicly declared that removing the four lower Snake River dams is critical to recovering these fish.

Northwest members of Congress need to hear from citizens. Tell your senators and representatives it's time to remove the biggest obstacles to salmon recovery – the four lower Snake River dams – and quit penalizing fishing businesses and anglers that provide family-wage jobs throughout the Northwest. To send a letter to your member of Congress, go to [www.wildsalmon.org](http://www.wildsalmon.org). For more information contact SOS Inland Northwest Project Director Sam Mace at [sam@wildsalmon.org](mailto:sam@wildsalmon.org) or (509)747-2030.

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*Local environmental news and perspective on your community radio station.*

*The Wild Clearwater Country Radio Show*

*Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m.  
On Radio Free Moscow KRFP 92.5*

## FOC Offers Summer Volunteer Opportunities

**Amy Steele**

This summer brings numerous volunteer opportunities for members of Friends of the Clearwater that can provide you with the chance to be outdoors, meet new people and use your skills to protect the wild Clearwater country.

For those who enjoy directly working for the roots on which the organization was built, you have the option to help monitor Coeur d'Alene Salamanders on both the North Fork Clearwater and Selway Rivers.

This summer, you can join a weekly wildlife monitoring trip to Porcupine Creek, near Bovill, Idaho in the Clearwater NF. Missoula-based Wildlands CPR, a group dedicated to road removal, preventing new road construction, and limiting motorized recreation, has organized this effort to monitor the immediate effects of road decommissioning. FOC intern and UI Conservation Social Sciences student Adrienne Boland is leading the wildlife aspect of the project at Porcupine Creek.

You may also participate in local and regional outreach opportunities, including Moscow Farmers' Market, held each Saturday through October downtown in Friendship Square. This includes promoting FOC and the causes for which we advocate by handing out valuable place-based conservation information, signing up new members, recruiting new volunteers, and encouraging people to attend our monthly hikes and potlucks.

The FOC office has a few interesting tasks for volunteers to be involved in as well, such as literature research on various topics, web design, document layout and design, and managing the membership database.

If you wish to help in some way and live out of the local area or even out of state, please don't hesitate to contact us. We actively collaborate with many individuals and groups across the region and nation.

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## Eco-terrorism and the Trial of the Century

Robert Amon

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*Reprinted with permission from the April 17, 2006 edition of High Country News.*

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In case you hadn't noticed, 12 young people (average age 33) have been charged with arson and conspiracy to commit arson in several Western states. The 83-page indictment was handed down by a federal grand jury in Oregon, and it must be important because the story made the front page of the Western edition of the New York Times. Above the crease.

In commenting on their arrests (some are being held without bail), Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and FBI chief Robert Mueller played the "domestic eco-terrorism" card before the media, often dropping the "eco" part.

Arson, terrorism or not, is, of course, a crime, a serious crime of which the dozen have only been accused. Fire scares people. It would scare me, if I were in one. But a bunch of unarmed treehuggers torching some trucks and buildings (including a ski-resort restaurant at Vail and a holding corral for wild mustangs) at night, after making certain that no two-leggeds or four-leggeds were anywhere close, is not, it seems to me, something I would compare to taking out the Oklahoma City Federal Building during working hours.

The 12, by the way (shades of the Dirty Dozen?) are now 11. Bill Rodgers of Prescott, Ariz., managed to take his life with a plastic bag while in custody. One of his several suicide notes, the one addressed to "my friends and supporters," reads:

"... Certain human cultures have been waging war against the Earth for millennia. I choose to fight on the side of bears, mountain lions, skunks, bats, saguaros, cliff rose and all things wild — I am just the most recent casualty in that war. But tonight I have made a jailbreak. I am returning home to the Earth, to the place of my origins."

Poignant, but an admission of guilt? Unless



*White pines at Cedar Creek, file photo*

you've ever been in the federal-indictment wringer (I was, after protesting the logging of old growth during the 1990s) don't jump to any conclusions. Bill was a gentle man, an explorer of caves, a bookstore owner and decidedly nonviolent. Was he an arsonist in his spare time?

I've been attending enviro-gatherings for more than 20 years, and mostly I've been with urban, hike-oriented, letter-writing, good-hearted folks who initially are reserved about venturing their views but who, after a glass of wine, can get, well, radical. As one after another tells of personal loss of a favorite place on public lands we all own — forests, wetlands, streams and such — their eyes get misty; then they get angry, as they recall what has been taken. And not just in the West, but in New York and New Jersey, Michigan and Florida. Everybody wants to tell their story. After a while, as they get madder and madder, the person stuck with moderating the discussion has to close it off or close the bar.

Many of us are a hair-trigger away from walking Bill's walk.

Let me quote a few lines from that federal indictment where it names the Evil Eleven, though Rodgers, the dead guy, continues to appear as an "unindicted co-conspirator." This is odd, since he'd been declared dead a month before the indictment was made public. As Dave Barry would say, I am not making this up.

But on to those quotes: "In discussing their actions among themselves, certain of the defendants and others used code words, code names and nicknames."

"Certain of the defendants and others dressed in dark clothing, wore masks and gloves, and otherwise disguised their appearance."

"Certain of the defendants and others acted as 'lookouts' to ensure secrecy as the crimes were car-

See **Trial**, page 13

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## Summer 2006 Issues Update

Gary Macfarlane

### *Some Winter and Spring Happenings*

The Idaho fish and Game Commission and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game proposal to kill wolves in the Clearwater has been submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for its consideration (see last newsletter for more detail or visit our website at [www.wildrockies.org/foc](http://www.wildrockies.org/foc)). Before Idaho could forward the proposal to the Fish and Wildlife Service, it had to solicit public involvement and do such a scientific peer-review of its proposal. Well, the public comment ran about 140 to 1 against killing wolves, even 2 to 1 against from Idaho residents (thanks to all who commented from inside and outside of Idaho!). Not much support at all. The scientific peer-review largely panned Idaho's proposal as unscientific. The State failed to demonstrate that wolves were the primary reason factor in big game numbers.

Nonetheless, Idaho took the proposal to the next level. Speculation is that since Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne has just been appointed US Secretary of the Interior (a position that oversees the Fish and Wildlife Service), the political fix is in. Even if that is true, it may be some time before the Fish and Wildlife Service acts on the proposal. It lacks scientific merit and the professionals remaining in the Service (as well as those remaining in the Idaho Department of Fish and Game) recognize that fact. They have little incentive to act on a proposal without merit, especially one that may reflect on their professionalism. At the very least, we expect the Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct some environmental analysis on the proposal before making a decision and that may involve more public input, this time at the federal level where laws like NEPA require scientific accuracy. A coalition of conservation groups, including Friends of the Clearwater, is looking into a potential legal challenge if this bad idea is approved.

On another note, Idaho's anti-wolf coalition failed to get the required number of signatures to put an initiative on the ballot making it state policy to remove all of the wolves in Idaho. It has been



*Gray Wolf, WERC*

reported this group will try again for the next election.

### *Return of the Zombies, or Bad Ideas Never Die*

The US Forest Service and BLM are trying to repackage three bad timber sales on which Friends of the Clearwater and other conservationists won in court last year. One sale, called White White-- yes, its a stupid redundant name, seems the Forest Service has approved so many timber sales it has run out of names to call them, maybe we can expect a Brown Brown Brown timber sale soon--on the Clearwater National Forest, is out for public comment now. Little changed from the past proposal. This sale was one of two sales stopped by the Brick Trout/White White winning lawsuit brought by Advocates for the West on behalf of Friends of the Clearwater and the Ecology Center. Brick Trout has yet to rise up from its deserving crypt. Maybe it will stay where it belongs.

The other two sales-- Meadow Face and Whiskey South Timber Sales, on the Nez Perce National Forest and the BLM Cottonwood Field Area--have gone through initial public involvement though the agencies have not yet put forth a complete proposal for public input. The Meadow Face winning lawsuit was brought by the Western Environmental Law Center on behalf of Friends of the Clearwater, the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, the Ecology Center and Idaho Sporting Congress and Whiskey South winning lawsuit was brought by Advocates for the West on behalf of Friends of the Clearwater and the Idaho Conservation League. Friends of the Clearwater will continue to monitor these sales.

See **Wolf Update**, page 13

We went to court because of concerns about water quality and fish habitat in these areas that have been heavily logged in the past and we may need to do so again.

### *Whacking Wilderness*

The US Forest Service seems to like wilderness on the mild side, if two recent decisions are any indication. Both decisions affect the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. One by the Clearwater National Forest would have replaced structures (generally prohibited in Wilderness) on the Wind Lakes trail rather than removing them and keeping the trail a path through the woods. This option would have been far better as there are other trails into Wind Lakes designed to carry more foot and horse traffic. The other, by the Nez Perce National Forest, was a decision to use a motorized rock drill to reconstruct a trail over Bilk Mountain. This decision was somewhat controversial inside the agency. Wilderness Watch and the Ecology Center joined Friends of the Clearwater in administrative reviews (appeals) of the decisions which the regional office rubber-stamped. No surprise there. The agency charged with implementing the spirit and letter of the Wilderness Act, which both these projects violate, has shown it cares little for wilderness or the public.

The Forest Service recently appointed a new director of Wilderness in the Washington office. This is a relatively new job and was designed to increase the attention and commitment to Wilderness within the agency. Sadly, it has not worked. In spite of a past history of being committed to Wilderness stewardship, the Forest Service's commitment to Wilderness has suffered the past many years. Maybe it is time to end the responsibility of the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service (perhaps the best of the four in wilderness stewardship, a position formerly held by the Forest Service) over the National Wilderness Preservation System and create a new Wilderness agency charged with its stewardship. See [www.wildernesswatch.org/newsletters/nov00.html](http://www.wildernesswatch.org/newsletters/nov00.html) for the piece by Dr. Mike Frome, the father of environmental journalism, renowned author and retired professor.



## Trial

Continued from Page 11

ried out.”

Is anybody but me thinking Boston Tea Party? And almost every count — and there are 65 of them — names the person or persons, followed by the phrase “and other person(s) known to the Grand Jury.” In other words, a plant, or plants.

Is this surprising? The FBI does it all the time. They do it in drug busts; they did it to EarthFirst in 1989, thanks to infiltration via love, or what seemed like love. We don't have law enforcement; we set up stings.

What to do? You could opt to abandon the country immediately. Or, you could stand up for the Earnest Eleven at the five-week trial set to start in Eugene, Ore., on Oct. 31. This may not be the Trial of the Century, but then again, it's a young century. We could set the bar.

*Robert Amon, who is usually called Uncle Ramon, is a former insurance salesman turned treehugger. He lives on an old Forest Service bus here, there, and everywhere.*



*Free Time This Summer?*



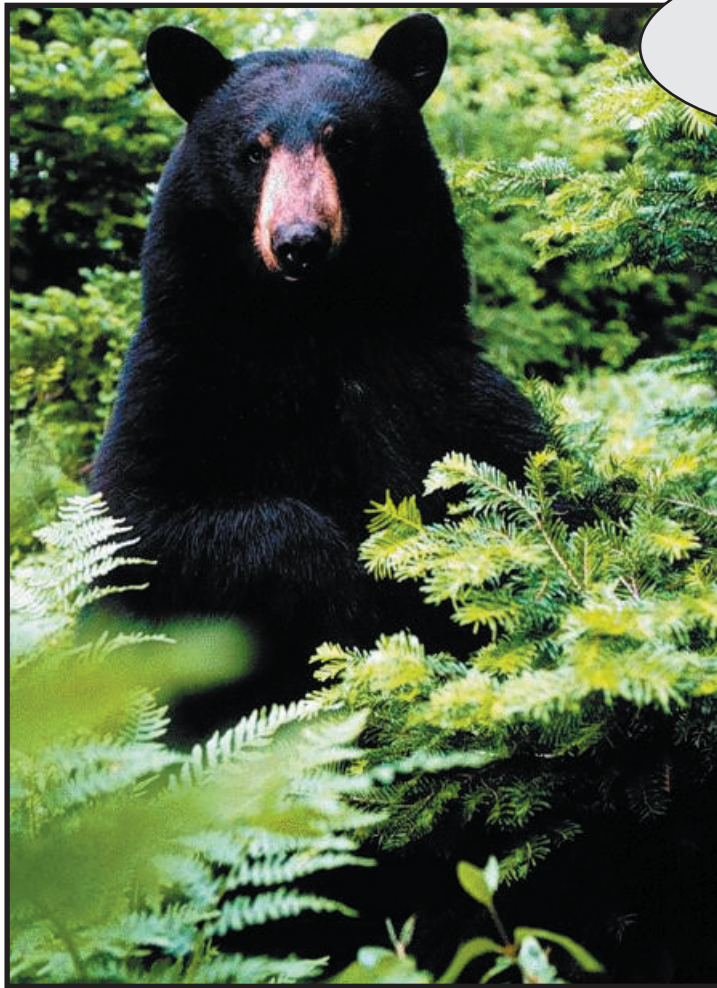
*Volunteer with FOC by:*

- Hosting an information booth at Moscow Farmer's Market
- Participating in the citizen science-based Couer d'Alene salamander monitoring project
- Participating in a weekly decommissioned road monitoring project
- Working in the FOC office (creating documents, web design, literature research, & more)

**Friends of the Clearwater**

**P. O. Box 9241  
Moscow, ID 83843**

**Non-Profit Organization  
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Keep it close by...

**Calendar of Events**  
Summer 2006

**All Summer: Weekly Decommissioned Road Monitoring Project**  
Porcupine Creek; meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Moscow Food Co-op on Sundays, all summer long

**June 24: John's Creek Hike**  
Meet 7a.m. at Rosauers; Return at 7 p.m.

**July 11: Volleyball Potluck**  
East City Park  
6:30 p.m.

**July 14-16: Salamander Trip**  
Trip #2 to the North Fork; contact us at 882-9755 if you are interested

**August 29: Back to School Potluck**  
More details to come

**Sept 9: Back to School Hike**  
More details to come