



# CLEARWATER DEFENDER

NEWS OF THE BIG WILD

A PUBLICATION OF  
FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

WINTER 06-07, VOL. 4, NO. 4  
ISSUED QUARTERLY

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Page 1*

REQUIEM: A TRIBUTE TO LEROY LEE

BY CHUCK PEZESHKI

*Page 3*

THE STRATEGY TO PRIVATIZE THE PUBLIC DOMAIN: PART II OF III

BY BILL WILLERS

*Page 6*

NORTHERN ROCKIES PROTECTION ACT: COULD THE TIME BE NOW?

BY NREPA NETWORK & WILL BOYD

*Page 7*

"QUID PRO QUO" LEGISLATION: A THING OF THE PAST?

BY GARY MACFARLANE

*Page 8*

RUNNING OUT OF TIME

BY SIOUX WESTERVELT

*Page 9*

REGIONAL CONSERVATIONISTS AWARDED



## Requiem: A Tribute to Leroy Lee

Chuck Pezeshki

My friend, LeRoy Lee, passed away just under two weeks ago. He was fifty years old, a school-teacher in and around St. Maries for the last decade. Before that, he worked as a stand examiner and logger in the woods surrounding those communities and across the Inland Northwest, up in the Kootenay country in Montana, as well as down in the Clearwater.

He was diminutive in appearance. Just a little on the skinny side, with black braids, sporting a ball cap, usually with some brand of chainsaw or timber company. He wasn't much of an icon if you had to ask anyone what a hero looked like. He got scared. He giggled a lot. He was goofy. He didn't have a jutting chin, or a sharp, delineat-

See **LeRoy**, Page 5

---

## Shaping of the Central Idaho Wildlands

A special presentation by world re-  
nowned ungulate biologist, Dr. Jim Peek

*Email FOC to request an audio copy of this pre-  
sentation (\$5.00/CD, all proceeds go to Radio Free  
Moscow, KRFP who recorded the program 2.20.07)*

Dr. Peek, Professor Emeritus at the University  
of Idaho, has studied the ungulates (deer, elk,  
bighorn sheep) of the Central Idaho wildlands  
and their habitat for decades. Through his years  
of research he has come to better understand the  
factors that drive this wild ecosystem and shape its  
wildlife populations.

Dr. Peek shared his research with us at the  
University of Idaho, Law School Courtroom,  
Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 7:00 p.m. He spent consider-  
able time fleshing out the many factors that shape  
elk population dynamics in and around the Frank  
Church Wilderness, including fire, snow, drought,  
and predation. A thorough question/answer ses-  
sion concerning the current proposal to delist the  
Northern Rockies gray wolf population, the social  
factors influencing delisting, and the interface be-  
tween science and wildlife management followed.

During the reception guests were able to interact  
and learn about wolves from staff of the Wolf  
Education Research Center (Winchester, ID), one  
of the many supporting co-sponsors of the event.

Sponsored by Friends of the Clearwater, Palouse Group  
Sierra Club, UI Environmental Law Society, UI Society for  
People and the Environment. Co-sponsors include UI Envi-  
ronmental Club, Groundworks, Palouse Prairie Foundation,  
Paradise Ridge Defense Coalition, Moscow High School En-  
vironmental Club, Palouse Audubon Society, and the Idaho  
Native Plant Society-White Pine Chapter, Wolf Education &  
Research Center ☐

THE CLEARWATER DEFENDER IS A PUBLICATION OF:



### Friends of the Clearwater

PO Box 9241  
Moscow, ID 83843  
(208) 882-9755

foc@friendsoftheclearwater.org  
<http://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org>

Friends of the Clearwater, a recognized non-profit organiza-  
tion 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, re-  
cognize 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 or-  
ganization. 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.

#### Board Members:

Lynne Nelson, President	Kate Jaeckel
Jim Tarter, Vice President	Chris Norden
Tabitha Brown, Secretary	Julian Matthews
Ashley Martens, Treasurer	Steve Paulson
Jeanne Clothiaux	
Greg Gollberg	

Ecosystem Defense Director: Gary Macfarlane

Education Director: Will Boyd

Layout & Design: Maricelle Cardenas

Editors: Bill Bonney, Will Boyd



*Printed on 100% post con-  
sumer recycled paper made  
without the use of harmful  
chlorine bleaching agents.*

---

## The Strategy to Privatize the Public Domain: Part II of III

Bill Willers

---

*Editor's Note: This article is Part II of a three-part series by Bill Willers. The essay in its entirety can be found at [www.friendsoftheclearwater.org](http://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org). It was originally published under the same name on the now defunct Web site of *The Liberal Slant*, published April 21, 2003.*

---

### Terry Anderson and PERC

It's difficult to overestimate the power of language manipulation. The Political Economy Research Center (PERC), heads its website with the note: "The Center for Free Market Environmentalism." This use of "environmentalism" in connection with the language of free market economics is now seen again and again, not only with regards to PERC, but to a host of similar groups, as if it were a valid form of environmentalism rather than a tactic in the overall strategy for taking control of the public's land. It's the principle of hitting the public mind constantly with a falsehood until, in time, it has a ring of truth.

Go to PERC's website [www.perc.org](http://www.perc.org), click on "links," and one is led to a list of 55 of the country's most powerful right-wing foundations and organizations committed to deregulation of industry and to the privatization of everything. PERC's basic premise is that ownership and management of land by government is bad for the environment, and that private property rights lead to better "stewardship of resources." Our government is depicted not as an entity "of, by, and for the people" but as something far, far away and characterized by faceless, incompetent, bureaucrats.

PERC advances its agenda through policy analysis, conferences, books and articles, and "education". Its funding comes from a host of the country's most conservative foundations -- Bradley, Sarah Scaife, John M. Olin, JM, Lambe, McKenna, Earhart, Koch, Carthage and Castle Rock -- the guts of a force of roughly a dozen or so foundations that, since the 1960s, have

coordinated their efforts toward forging national policy favorable to deregulation of industry and to privatization.

Terry Anderson, PERC's director (and a senior fellow at the right-wing Hoover Foundation), landed in the consciousness of environmentalists in 1999 as lead author of an alarming policy paper published by the Cato Institute, "How and Why to Privatize Federal Lands." The paper, in which public ownership was painted "red" by being identified as a "failure of socialism," was based on four assumptions: That a given piece of land be "allocated to highest-valued use," that transition costs (to private ownership) be kept to a minimum, that there be "broad participation" in the divestiture, and that "squatter's rights" be protected. The plan advanced was to allocate to each citizen "shares" in what are now public lands. That's the "broad participation" part -- everybody gets "shares," But here's the rub: shares would be "freely transferred", i.e., sold on the open market.

With 280 million citizens, what would an individual's shares be worth? -- \$5,000? \$50,000? Whatever the value on the open market, the poorer a citizen, the greater the inducement to sell quickly. But even the middle classes, bombarded with college tuition, mortgages, medical bills and the like, in time would be needing the cash their "shares" represented. In the wings, corporations and the very rich would be waiting to vacuum shares up. There would be a great sucking sound of the sort Ross Perot once described, and within a generation or two what is now the priceless heritage of all U.S. citizens would gravitate into the ownership of the wealthy.

Actually, Anderson's vision is for a process that would take place over a 20-40 year span -- about two generations. As the push to privatize heats up, our common assets, held for us by a government of the people, are drifting into the control of the private sector, no longer for public benefit but for private profit. And we are failing to notice.

Anderson writes that his plan "provides opportunities and incentives for environmentalists and their organizations to participate directly in the ownership and management of amenity resources by bidding for surface rights to parks and wilderness lands." But surely he knows this is nonsense, for how could the environmental community ever compete with global corporate interests, extrac-

See **Privatization**, Page 4

---

**Privatization**, continued from Page 3

tive industry and the billionaire set? For those who love the land it would be panic time and a scratching together of any available funds to save a few revered spots.

And the language! “Amenity resources” indeed! A soulless concept dripping with dollar signs and devoid of any deeper sense of connection between humans and the natural world. Calling this kind of economics “the dismal science” is much too kind. It says “Here’s a piece of land. Take a hike and enjoy. \$50 please, in the interest of free marketeering. Thank you, and have a great day. Nature, Inc.”

In May of 1999, as reported by Mark Hertsgaard in the February, 2003 issue of *The Nation*, Terry Anderson became George W. Bush’s adviser on public lands issues.

Anderson was one of a group that met with Bush at the Texas Governor’s mansion. Bush was advised, as Anderson explained, to “devolve some responsibility for meeting environmental standards to local levels.” Bush was also advised at that time to give private property rights precedence over public interests and to replace governmental law and regulation with the laissez-faire principles of the free market -- exactly what the privatization lobby has worked toward these past four decades.

First The States and “Local” Interests

In a 1995 report, “Conservative Foundations and their Activist Grantees,” the National Committee for



*Elk calves, Lindsay Myron*

Responsible Philanthropy (NCRP) wrote that Ronald Reagan’s 1980 election, and his Administration’s efforts to increase the authority of states, gave the conservatives a collective opportunity to establish state power-bases from which it not only crafted and pressed legislation in all states but also mobilized for impacting national policy. Don Eberly, a principal in the conservative movement, was quoted as saying “We simply will not have power on the national level until we declare war on state legislators.”

Indeed, it has been run as a war, and one strategically so well organized, and with such an extensive support network, that elements as diverse the Christian Coalition and the National Rifle Association appear as part of a united front. And because the conservative foundations have been joined by large corporations such as RJ Reynolds Tobacco, Shell Oil, Pfizer, Phillip Morris, etc., the conservative collective, now with billions of dollars at its disposal, has been able to outspend progressive efforts many-fold in its mission to redesign national policy. Its propaganda campaign disseminates information to media and supports a wealth of “educational” literature for all levels of consumption, including school newspapers. It is within this vast network that PERC rests. □

*Sustainability*  
*For you and your Friends*

IT IS NOW EASY TO GIVE \$1-\$10 PER MONTH. THIS KIND OF GIVING MEANS CONSISTENT PROTECTION FOR THE CLEARWATER BASIN’S WILDLANDS.

VISIT OUR MONTHLY DONOR LINK AT

WWW.FRIENDSOFTHECLEAR-  
WATER.ORG

---

## LeRoy, continued from Page 1

ed profile. There were days when I wished that he would take a bath. But the imprint he made on the preservation of our national heritage was a big one.

While doing his job, checking and reporting on stocking of actual trees on the ground, he noticed that lots of times where the US Forest Service said that there were 150 tall trees, there were actually stumps. And these bogus numbers that the Forest Service were putting forward were being used to inflate the amount of trees that could be cut and bilk the citizens of our country out of more money *to destroy more of America's forests*. LeRoy discovered that the Forest Service kept two sets of books, one with the inflated numbers, and one with the actual maps of what trees were still on the ground.

LeRoy traveled to Congress to present his results in 1992. He presented his results in front of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. "They've fabricated a paper forest," LeRoy told them. He was right. He had walked the ground and seen for himself, and documented the clearcuts.

LeRoy's work went on to be the basis for a continuing series of successful lawsuits against the Forest Service that stopped further destruction of national forests across the Inland Northwest. There is a public perception that somehow winning a lawsuit to stop a large timber sale proposed by the Forest Service is trivial, and lawsuits are won on technicalities. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In order to beat the US Forest Service in court, groups must first show "standing", meaning that they attended meetings, commented on draft plans, and communicated with the Forest Service about the project over a period of years. Once past the supposed agency "citizen appeal" process, which basically lays out any potential legal strategy that a group might have to the Forest Service, a fraction of appeals are upheld by the agency. A group has to then find a lawyer and come up with the money to file the lawsuit.

Once in front of a federal judge, they have to make a case that the agency's behavior was "arbitrary and capricious", meaning that people in the Forest Service ignored the letter and the intent of the law in a way that demonstrated a flagrant

abuse of their authority. The default position that the judge must take is called "the king can do no wrong". This means that whatever experts in the USFS say, is taken as absolute truth, unless the citizens can prove without a doubt that the Forest Service is wrong.

The lawsuits that LeRoy supported did just that. There's no arguing with a picture of stumps where there is supposed to be a forest with 300 year old trees. And because of him, we have that much more wild country left.

LeRoy went on to get his teaching certificate and worked with children in some of the poorest parts of the state. He didn't shy away from problem students, and was one of the most effective in working with students from distressed backgrounds. He lived simply, on his organic farm with his partner, and practiced his Native American faith-he was basically adopted into the Nez Perce Tribe. For me personally, he was one of the most profound and sincere teachers I've ever had.

If LeRoy's life can be held as an example for anything, it is that empowerment is a personal choice. LeRoy came from the humblest of beginnings. Until his final years, he had no college degree. He was very human-not fearless or constantly brave. But he had the conviction of his beliefs and a clear understanding of his role as a citizen in a great country. He gave back to all of us, all of his life.

Goodbye, LeRoy, wherever you are. I will miss you. □

**Finally, a centralized location for everything you want to do, locally:**

[www.palousecalendar.info](http://www.palousecalendar.info)

**Music, special presentations, book signings, community forums, outings, and more.**

**A calendar for local non-profits, the arts, and independent businesses throughout the Palouse.**

---

# Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act: Could the time be now?

---

## NREPA Network & Will Boyd

---

*"NREPA (Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act) is visionary not only in size, scope and spirit but in that it focuses on the science of conservation biology — ecosystems, watersheds and science, not arbitrary political boundaries and partisan politics."*

*-Cynthia Sewell, Boise Weekly,  
Sept. 2004*

---

Based on sound biological and economic science, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act is an ecosystem approach to protecting and restoring the U.S. Northern Rockies bioregion. When enacted, it will protect almost 20 million acres of intact wild lands that provide essential habitat to countless species of plants, animals, fish, birds and insects, as well as to people who depend on the wild and majestic Northern Rockies for their economic and spiritual well-being.

This bill seeks to protect the heart of Wild America, the Northern Rockies, including the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Greater Glacier Ecosystem, the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem (Wild Clearwater Country), and the Greater Cabinet/Yaak/Selkirk Ecosystem. This area supports the most diverse array of intact wildlands left in our nation. Protection measures include designation of Wilderness Areas, Biological Connecting Corridors, Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as a National Wildland Restoration and Recovery Zone.

Many of these new wilderness areas are currently roadless areas, only partially protected and **subject to political whim and rule-making**. Many roadless areas remain un-inventoried after arbitrary omission during the RARE (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) 1 and RARE 2 processes, which occurred in 1971-73 and 1979, respectively. NREPA would protect both inventoried and un-inventoried roadless country in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, and Washington.

The bill, H.R. 1204, had 187 co-sponsors from both parties in the House during the 109th

Congress. It was introduced by Representatives Christopher Shays (R-CT) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). Shays was one of few successful New England Republican incumbents this past November.

"The bill has always had a strong economic component," says Carole King, who has championed NREPA since its inception. "NREPA highlights that component. Restoration means immediate jobs, and NREPA will save taxpayers \$245 million over the next decade." According to a 2003 report by economist Michael Garrity, NREPA would be the most cost-effective way to preserve threatened and endangered species in the Northern Rockies.

This cutting-edge environmental bill is expected to create 2300 new jobs. In addition to its economic benefits, the ecosystem connectivity provided by NREPA will help to mitigate the effects of global warming on some species. By giving species space to move and adapt, this increased connectivity between populations could postpone or, in some cases, even prevent loss of sensitive species.

For more information on NREPA, its current status, or to request a copy of "*Beyond Borders*", the award-winning film portraying the vision for wildland protection in the Northern Rockies, contact the Alliance for the Wild Rockies or the NREPA Network at their respective websites, [www.wildrockiesalliance.org](http://www.wildrockiesalliance.org) and [www.nrepa-network.org](http://www.nrepa-network.org) □



*A recent snowshoe outing to Fish Creek Roadless Area, one of many important anadromous fisheries that would be protected by NREPA*

---

---

## “Quid Pro Quo” Legislation: A Thing of the Past?

Gary Macfarlane

This past year saw some very controversial public land legislation, often called “quid pro quo” legislation, introduced into Congress. These bills were often touted as wilderness bills, though the bills had provisions which some conservationists thought made them, on the whole, worse than the status quo. Nonetheless, other conservationists supported some of the bills, and these differences created controversy.

Four bills, in particular, were examples of this problem. Nearly 90 groups, including Friends of the Clearwater, signed a letter asking for “a moratorium on bills currently pending in Congress that combine wilderness designation with harmful land and water development provisions.” Only one of the four bills, a bill dealing with public land in Nevada, passed. Two bills in Idaho and one in Utah did not pass.

Janine Blaeloch of Western Lands Project, produced a paper at [www.westernlands.org/assets/QPQ4.pdf](http://www.westernlands.org/assets/QPQ4.pdf) on the four problematic pieces of legislation. It is worth reading the full analysis at the web-link above. This paper, in its introduction, gave the reasons why this kind of legislation was so controversial. It noted:

“ . . . These bills fall into a category that we have come to call “quid pro quo wilderness,” a type of legislation that **proposes large-scale privatization of public land; water and land development; local subsidies funded by the sale or giveaway of public land; and wilderness designations with wilderness-degrading provisions.**

*These bills tend to be long, detailed, and extremely complex, sometimes containing cryptic language and/or*

*amendments to previous acts of legislation whose effects may not be immediately apparent.”(emphasis added)*

Changes in Congress have given the conservation community an opportunity to discuss these issues more openly. A statement by the influential Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance ([www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org)) summed up the need for us to talk over these issues:

*“Our fear is that the American wilderness movement is slipping downhill and that the pace quickens. We’d like to begin a conversation, and soon, with our wilderness colleagues nationally, regionally and locally about this trend and our great fear of it. We would like them to understand our position; we’d like to better understand theirs.”*

The change in Congress suggests that the perceived need to agree to these kind of bills may cease, at least for the foreseeable future. Indeed, some key House members who are now committee chairs voiced opposition to bad provisions in those past bills. The pending reintroduction and real possibility of House action on the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) is great news for the future of wildlands and Wilderness in the Clearwater country and the entire Rockies Bioregion. Because of these changes, hopefully the conservation community can come together again and work for visionary wilderness and ecosystem protection like NREPA.

*(NOTE: It is also good to read another paper by Janine Blaeloch, Western Lands Project, and Katie Fite, Western Watersheds Project, at the web-link [www.westernlands.org/quid-pro-quo.pdf](http://www.westernlands.org/quid-pro-quo.pdf) to understand just how public-land legislation has gone from being protective to being a means for special-interest grabs, and to read a fine paper by George Nickas and Kevin Proescholdt of Wilderness Watch on what conservationists can do to prevent wilderness damaging provisions at [www.wildernesswatch.org/pdf/SpecialProvisions/pdf](http://www.wildernesswatch.org/pdf/SpecialProvisions/pdf))* □

WEEKLY UP-  
DATES ABOUT  
THE LAND YOU  
CARE ABOUT-  
YOURS.

CONTACT US TO RECEIVE THE BIG WILD WEEKLY, A  
SERVICE OF FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER,  
VIA E-MAIL.

E-MAIL “[FOC@FRIENDSOFTHECLEARWATER.ORG](mailto:FOC@FRIENDSOFTHECLEARWATER.ORG)” WITH “SUBSCRIBE” IN THE SUBJECT BOX .

---

## Running Out of Time

### Sioux Westervelt

Mad. Scared. Cornered. No matter what I think or feel or say, wolves are going to die. Many wolves. Not just a few or those that prey on livestock. Many hundreds, entire packs, will die if the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and Idaho's Gov. Butch Otter have their way. The only hope is that they will be killed humanely, and not even that seems probable if one were witness to the spectacle of the governor cheering on the blood thirsty crowd gathered on the capitol steps in Boise in January.

What is it about wolves that bring on this madness in men? Cougars and bears are hunted, too, usually with the use of dogs since men can't seem to find them on their own, but not even those large predators bring on the irrational fear and hatred that wolves do. In his book, "Of Wolves and Men", Barry Lopez talks about the cruelty and blood thirsty killing that resulted in annihilation of wolves in the 1930's. Despicable methods of catching and killing were utilized when a bounty was put on wolves back then. I seriously question if things have changed all that much.

The wolves – descendants of those captured in Canada and brought here drugged, in crates, to be released in the wilds of Idaho in 1995 – are out there in the woods doing what wolves do. They did not come here voluntarily, but now they're surviving well - breeding, hunting, playing, raising and teaching their young, hanging out in packs. They do not have a clue that their lives will soon be ripped apart by hunters who hate them. It's miraculous they have been as successful as they are at survival. It shows their spirit. Ever since they arrived, they have been chased, trapped, and darted from helicopters so they could be collared, measured, weighed, studied, re-captured, moved around, or killed because they are troublesome. These are pack animals. They develop and live by a pack structure, and they depend on each other for survival and protection. When their packs are splintered by continuous manipulation and execution they are vulnerable. They take the prey that

is easiest to bring down.

When the endangered status is removed from the wolves of Idaho, all hell will break loose. Let's just ask ourselves what will happen to those wolves: Will there be a "season" for killing wolves? How will they be killed? Which wolves, and how many, will be targeted? Will hunters utilize the sportsmanship of track and kill, or will they be devious and cruel? Will they use leg-hold traps to catch them, or perhaps ATVs and snowmobiles to run them to exhaustion before they are shot? What happens once their packs are shattered?

The end result will be wolves on the move looking for safe territory, their biological drive will tell them to breed more because the pack is in danger (just as coyotes do), their pups will die when the alpha pair and other adults of the pack are killed before the young ones can take care of themselves. Just sit with that for a time and see how you feel about it. Then let the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Idaho Fish & Game Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Gov. Butch Otter know what you think. The wolves are out there waiting. They're running out of time, and they don't even know it. □

#### **TAKE ACTION FOR WOLVES!**

**•Send your comment to the Fish & Wildlife Service today through email to [NRMGraywolf@fws.gov](mailto:NRMGraywolf@fws.gov) or by mail to:**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wolf Delisting  
585 Shepard Way  
Helena, Mont. 59601**

**•Remember to include these three main points:**

- 1) Idaho does not plan to manage wolves for recovery**
- 2) Delisting cannot legally occur until all three states involved (MT, ID, WY) all have acceptable management plans**
- 3) A regional plan for wolf recovery needs to be developed, irrespective of political boundaries**

**•Attend the public hearing, March 8, 2007, 6:00 p.m. at Oxford Inns & Suites, 15015 East Indiana Avenue, Spokane Valley, WA**

---

## Regional Conservationists Awarded for Years of Effective Service

Last November at Friends of the Clearwater's Annual Meeting in Moscow, two humble giants received long-overdue praise for their efforts on behalf of the region's wild country.

Dr. Fred Rabe, Professor Emeritus of Zoology at the University of Idaho received a lifetime achievement award for his decades of aquatic entomological research focused on unique ecological areas in Idaho including high mountain lakes and rare wetlands. His work has contributed to the protection of many research natural areas throughout the state. Research natural areas (RNAs), such as the Aquarius RNA on the North Fork Clearwater and the Lochsa RNA protect rare ecosystems with unusual and/or imperiled flora and fauna. RNAs prohibit active management but allow for and encourage scientific study. Dr. Rabe has currently proposed new RNAs including Pinchot Marsh, within the Pinchot Butte Roadless Area (adjacent to Grandmother Mt Roadless Area) as well as Lund Creek, and Little Lost Lake, all within the Little North Fork Clearwater drainage.

As of late, Fred has recently written and produced "*Exploring High Mountain Lakes in the Rockies: A story of their ecology and natural history*," a lavishly illustrated work paying particular attention to interactions between geology, water, and biota. He has also been working with local groups including Friends of the Clearwater, Palouse Group Sierra Club, and the Idaho Native Plant Society to organize a weekend workshop to the Little North Fork Country July 13-14. Workshop participants will get to explore the wild Little North Fork while getting their hands dirty sampling for aquatic invertebrates and identifying plants typical of the area. Experts in both entomology and botany will be in attendance.

Gary Macfarlane, Ecosystem Defense Director for Friends of the Clearwater, was presented with the first annual, "Macfarlane" award, for his dedication to protection of the Wild Clearwater Country. Gary has spent his entire career defending wild ecosystems, first with the High Uintas Preservation Council in Utah and then with Friends of the Clearwater beginning in 1994. He has been recognized as one of the most effective activists

in the northern Rockies, as recipient of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies Conservation award in 1997 while volunteering. Much of his time has been spent as a volunteer, providing crucial forest watch work without compensation. Gary's expertise with bedrock laws that protect our natural heritage, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Wilderness Act, as well as his years spent on the ground throughout the Northern Rockies make him an invaluable asset to the future of preservation in the region.

Gary was also honored by several members of the Nez Perce Tribe, FOC board member Julian Matthews and James Holt. He was given an Indian blanket and was thanked for his protection of Nez Perce country, as the 1855 Treaty boundary includes in large part the Wild Clearwater Country.

The Macfarlane will be an annual rotating award. "Macfarlane" is enscribed into a native yew plank and will reside wherever its recipient currently resides. This annual award seeks to highlight individuals with outstanding and unwavering efforts of wildland protection in the Northern Rockies. □



*Dr. Rabe on a recent sampling trip to Pinchot Marsh, a unique bog ecosystem and proposed Research Natural Area in Pinchot Butte Roadless Area, Idaho Panhandle NF.*

---

# Wild Clearwater Ramblings

Gary Macfarlane

The Wild Clearwater Country has had an eventful recent past. Changes in Congress should bode well for the visionary Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (see related article).

## **Other Good News: Cherry Dinner Timber Sale in the Pits**

The ill-advised Cherry Dinner Sale on the Clearwater National Forest (Palouse Ranger District) was pulled by order of the regional office in Missoula. In an odd turn of events, it looked like the appeal filed by Friends of the Clearwater and its partners (Alliance for the Wild Rockies, the Ecology Center, and the Lands Council) would be rejected. What actually happened? The regional office ordered the Clearwater National Forest officials to take another look. We had caught them in a legal problem and the regional office didn't want to be vulnerable, so the decision to proceed was dropped, without admitting any error.

While it is a victory, it is too bad the Forest Service cannot see the timber sale for what it is: 2,000 acres of logging and nearly 10 miles of new roads in a place already badly damaged. The sale would take place in public land near the Little Boulder Campground by Helmer. A few endangered steelhead still come up the Potlatch River. More development won't help the fish.

## **Different Agency Same Old News: Plans for the BLM Administered Public Lands**

The BLM's draft resource management plan and EIS for the Cottonwood Field Office (which includes land in the South Fork Clearwater and Lolo Creek) comment period closed in November. The proposed plan had significant weaknesses but, unlike the Forest Service's new and awful process, BLM did prepare an EIS and looked at alternatives (though inadequately).

FOC's detailed comments provided evidence that BLM needed to come up with new alternatives that recognized the sensitive nature of these areas (which are all within salmon and

steelhead habitat). We pointed out that mineral development, livestock grazing, logging and off-road vehicle use all have negative impacts on watersheds and wildlife habitat. We also pointed out that BLM had failed to recognize the undeveloped nature of key areas which are part of larger potential wildernesses on the national forests.

BLM's other plan for the Clearwater Country, the Coeur d'Alene resource management plan was issued in final form. FOC and allies protested the decision, as did FOC member Dr. Fred Rabe. Our protests focused on the fact that the Research Natural Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern in the Little North Fork Clearwater drainage were too small to protect the unique natural values in that area. Dr. Rabe has provided scientific evidence of the need to expand the protected area. We are awaiting a decision by BLM on the protest. (NOTE: Issues related to off-road vehicles can only be taken up after BLM issues a final decision on the protest). Dr. Rabe will be leading a trip to the Little North Fork this summer (July 14 and 15). Details will follow in the next newsletter.

## **Ominous News: The Forest Service Failure to Close Wild Country to Off-Road Vehicles**

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests are now just beginning the process to determine what areas will be open to motor

See **Ramblings**, Page 11



*Mine tailings on the Amerian River, S. Fork Clearwater drainage, Nez Perce National Forest*

---

## Ramblings, continued from Page 10

vehicles. Currently, there is almost no area on either national forest outside of wilderness where quiet recreation reigns -- not the renowned Meadow Creek nor even Kelly Creek (open to motorcycles). We will keep you updated as this progresses.

In a related note, the Forest Service is in the process of looking at a proposal to allow a motorcycle event, with 300 motorcycles, on the Red River Ranger District in the vicinity of Meadow Creek. The Forest Service may do NO public process on this proposal. Because of initial public opposition to this proposal, it now appears the Forest Service may tell the organizers no special use permit is even needed! If so, it would be an egregious breach of public trust on the part of the agency. □

## The New Site

[www.friendsoftheclearwater.org](http://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org)

It's time to change your Friends of the Clearwater web site setting from [www.wildrockies.org/foc](http://www.wildrockies.org/foc). We're still part of the Wild Rockies but we now have our own virtual universe at [www.friendsoftheclearwater.org](http://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org).

Web genius maximus, Om Goekermann, has brought us flying into the future while simultaneously increasing our accessibility and patching the holes in our sweaters.

Want to catch up on wolf issues over the past few months? Simply type "wolves" into the search engine box at the top of our homepage. You will find 26 documents that mention wolves.

**Type in "Gary Macfarlane" and you will get 9 documents that specifically mention our maestro of Ecosystem Defense, who happens to be turning 50 this year (March 21)!**

Type in "Wilderness" and you will get 5 pages of documents. Type in NREPA and you will find two pieces about the visionary Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act. I hope you get the point.

So if you're stuck inside with a head cold, in the throws of insomnia, or just feel like staring blankly into a glowing screen, well, why not stare at something a little wild. Well, something that is displaying some information about something

that is wild. OK, if you're on the computer, check it out, already!

If the newspaper isn't enough and everyone you talk to at work reads the Lewiston Tribune's outdoor section and nothing else, please, please check it out. If you're a lowbagger, have flashbacks when the words "cove" and "mallard" are mentioned in close proximity to one another, or if you work a desk job with a boss that regularly interrupts your daydreams of dancing bears, splashing salmon, and wolverines sipping tea with the Cheshire cat at Stanley Hot Springs, take a gander at the new site.

You'll either eventually fall asleep or strap on the ole boots and head for Boulder Creek.

Some of the cool stuff about the new site:

- **Up to date news feeds**
- **Easy to access calendars of upcoming events**
- **Interactive satellite map imagery**
- **Info on all the country you love and opportunities to "Take Action" to protect it**
- **Access to current Big Wild Weeklies**
- **Online accounts:** Access to the community forum (an online meeting space), access to special alerts, ability to post thoughts or messages, volunteer online, and more. To create an account just click on "create new account" under User Login on our homepage.
- **Wild Scribes Special Alerts:** The Wild Scribes are dedicated to protection of the Clearwater through their mighty pens, responding to threats when notified. Please contact us if you are interested. □

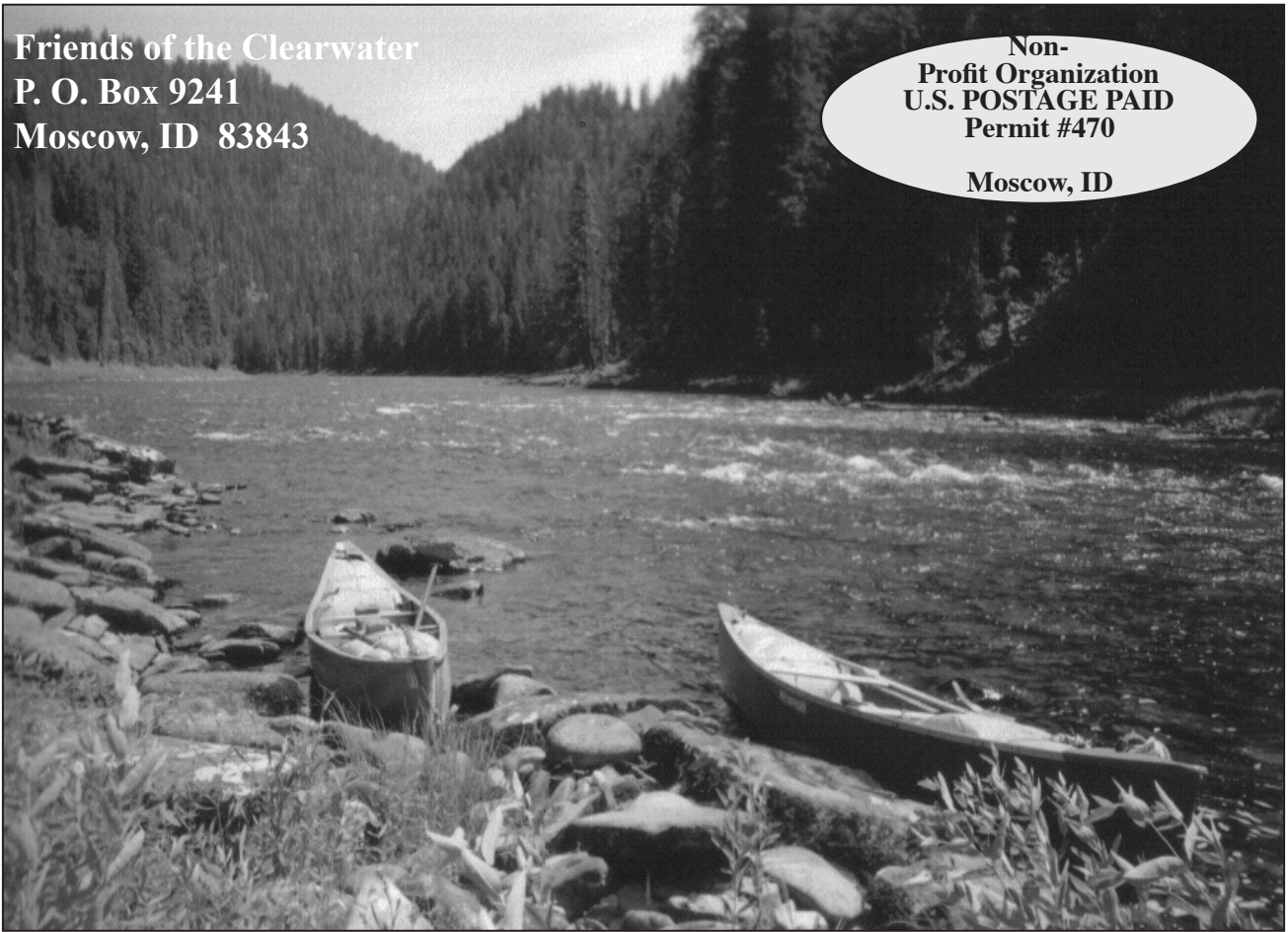
### Tune in to the Wild Clearwater Country

Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. (PST) on KRFP, Radio Free Moscow, 92.5 FM; available on streaming audio at [www.krfp.org](http://www.krfp.org)

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

Non-  
Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit #470

Moscow, ID



---

## FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2007

**March 2:  
Finn Riggins Benefit Show**

Join FOC for the party of the Spring!  
1912 Building (412 East 3rd St.), Moscow,  
7:00 p.m.

**March 20:  
“Let’s talk Fire” Potluck**

Location TBA, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**March 26:  
Palouse Conservation Meeting**  
1912 Building (412 East 3rd St.), Moscow,  
7:00 p.m.

**April 20:  
A Special Presentation by Howie  
Wolke**

A Vision for the Wild Northern Rockies  
Location and Time TBA

**April 21:  
John’s Creek Earth Day Hike**

Celebrate Earth Day in wild country!  
Meet at Rosauers, 6am, return 7:00 p.m.

**May 1:  
Salamanders Potluck**

Location TBA, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.