



# CLEARWATER DEFENDER

## NEWS OF THE BIG WILD

A PUBLICATION OF  
FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

ISSUED QUARTERLY  
WINTER 2009, VOL. 5 NO. 4

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 1* WISHFUL THINKING  
ABOUT GRIZZLIES
- Page 3* AROUND THE  
CLEARWATER BASIN
- Page 4* CLEARWATER WOLVES  
TARGETED FOR FIRST  
ESA 10(J) RULE KILLINGS
- Page 6* IS THERE A NREPA  
IN THE HOUSE?
- Page 8* COLLABORATIVE PROCESS:  
THE FUTURE OF WILDLANDS  
CONSERVATION OR PASSING FAD  
(PART 2)
- Page 10* LISTED LYNX LINGER  
IN THE NORTHERN ROCKIES
- Page 11* FOUR IN MEMORIUM

### Wishful Thinking about Grizzlies

**David Knibb, Guest Columnist**

Two Octobers ago, a Tennessee hunter shot a 400-pound, male grizzly bear near the head of Kelly Creek in the North Fork Clearwater drainage. He apparently didn't know the difference between a black bear and a grizzly. This was the first known grizzly in the Bitterroot Mountains since 1956. Biologists were even more surprised when DNA test results revealed that it had come from the Selkirk Mountains.

This shooting prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to launch a search, with help from state agencies, to ascertain if other grizzlies had migrated into central Idaho on their own. As part of this search, biologists set up 51 remote cameras last summer to see if they could photograph a grizzly. The cameras snapped lots of pictures of black bears, wolves, coyotes, deer, and moose, but no grizzlies. The candid camera contest will continue this summer. At 68 separate sites, biologists installed hair snag stations, using a technique common in bear research. They encircled strong-scented bait with a wire that snags a few hairs from any animal that comes to investigate. This winter, a DNA lab has been analyzing these hair samples.

As interesting as this search may be, it is largely a distraction from what should be the main goal – to decide what to do with a plan that was approved eight and a half years ago to reintroduce grizzlies into this area. The Selway-Bitterroot is one of six areas designated by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, a group of state and federal wildlife officials, for recovery of grizzly bears under the Endangered Species Act. Uniformly, biologists agree that a viable population of grizzlies in the Clearwater basin would go a long way toward saving the great bear. The Bitterroots could stitch back together the remnant populations that remain in Yellowstone to the southeast and in the Cabinet Mountains to the north. Two of the greatest threats to any endangered species are habitat fragmentation and genetic isolation.



*Grizzly Bear (Ursus arctos horribilis) (David Knibb photo)*

*See Grizzlies, page 2*

## Grizzlies, continued from page 1

After a long and raucous process, the Clinton administration adopted a plan in late 2000 to return grizzlies to the Bitterroots. It called for bringing in five bears per year for five years but was never put into effect. Six months into the Bush administration, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton shelved it. She never rescinded the plan; she just did nothing. Now, as a new administration takes over, questions naturally arise about whether the Selway-Bitterroot plan might be revived. But Chris Servheen, who heads the grizzly bear recovery program, says he does not aim to do this. Instead, he is focused on this search to confirm if grizzlies are migrating into central Idaho on their own.

This grizzly search is destined to go nowhere. Male grizzlies are notorious for their wanderlust. Seeking mates, they can easily cover a hundred miles. They are also bolder than females about crossing roads and other barriers. The typical male's home range is two hundred to four hundred square miles, while that of a female grizzly averages only seventy square miles and always overlaps part of her mother's range.

It takes both sexes to make a population. Based on the slow dispersal of females, a breeding population of grizzlies would require many years, if ever, to reestablish themselves in central Idaho. And even if one female took up residence, all her cubs and their cubs would be related, initiating what biologists call a "genetic bottleneck." Obviously, many more grizzlies are needed to create a healthy and sustainable population.

Wildlife officials charged with implementing the Endangered Species Act are thinking wishfully if they hope that they can somehow do nothing in the Bitterroots, waiting for grizzlies to save themselves. As interesting as it may be to find out about natural migration, restoring grizzly bears in the Bitterroots will require human intervention.

*David Knibb is the author of Grizzly Wars: The Public Fight Over the Great Bear, published by Eastern Washington University Press last October. On Thursday, March 26, at 7 p.m., he and Dr. Lynne Nelson will give FOC-sponsored presentations on Northern Rockies Grizzlies: Biology, Ecology, and Policy, in TLC 40 at the University of Idaho.*

Printed on 100% post-consumer, recycled paper made without using harmful chlorine bleaching



agents. Please reduce, reuse, and recycle this and all paper products.



FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

THE CLEARWATER DEFENDER  
IS A PUBLICATION OF:

### Friends of the Clearwater

P.O. Box 9241, Moscow, Idaho 83843

208-882-9755

foc@friendsoftheclearwater.org

www.friendsoftheclearwater.org

Friends of the Clearwater, a recognized non-profit organization since 1987, defends the Idaho Clearwater Bioregion's wildlands 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 bring an end to commodity extraction and industrialization on public lands.

Friends of the Clearwater is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions to 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 of Directors

Jim Tarter, President

James Holt

Tabitha Brown, Vice President

Ashley Martens

Will Boyd, Secretary

Chris Norden

Jill Johnson, Treasurer

Steve Paulson

Kirstin Eidenbach

Fred Rabe

### Advisory Board

Stewart Brandborg

Larry McLaud

Julian Matthews

Chuck Pezeshki

### Staff Members

Ecosystem Defense Director: Gary Macfarlane

Education and Outreach Director: Helen Yost

AmeriCorps Member: Sarah Aguilar

### Publication

Layout and Design: Helen Yost

Editor: Helen Yost

Copy Editor: Bill Bonney

## Around the Clearwater Basin

Gary Macfarlane

The winter holiday season slowed the public land management agencies in the area, as their employees rushed to take annual leave before the end of the year. However, federal officials are advancing many ongoing projects. The largest are their proposals to manage motorized recreation uses of local national forests.

In late January, Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) sent announcements urging members to comment by February 26 on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use (DRAMVU) plan produced by Nez Perce National Forest personnel. The Clearwater National Forest DEIS allocating trails for off-road (ORV) vehicles should be available in late March. If you would like more information on either of these “travel plans,” visit [www.friendsoftheclearwater.org](http://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org) for FOC action alerts.

The Forest Service heard from many citizens during the scoping period for their proposed land exchange in the upper Lochsa drainage. Even the state legislature reported an interest in how the exchange was being pursued. Another opportunity to comment will arise when the agency produces a DEIS on this scheme to trade scattered public lands in three national forests for private, railroad-grant tracts around the Lochsa headwaters that should have reverted back to public ownership decades ago. See the Big Wild Bi-Weeklies for fall 2008 on the FOC website for more information or visit the Clearwater National Forest website for the exchange proposal and accompanying maps.



*Off-Road Vehicle Damage to Meadow Creek Roadless Area*

## *Volunteer and Intern Opportunities*

**FOC relies on people like you for:**

### **Wildlife Research**

Monitor Coeur d’Alene salamanders  
Study wildlife use of decommissioned roads

### **Off-Road Vehicle Overuse Monitoring**

Document roadless area degradation

### **Timber Sale Monitoring**

Find logging & road-building infractions

### **Letter Writing**

Comment to officials, agencies, & editors

### **Tabling at Community Events**

Reach & educate concerned citizens

### **Research & Summary Writing**

Review Idaho & national mining laws

Examine state & federal wildlife policies

### **Fundraising & Marketing**

Cultivate revenue & publicity

Assist data entry, mailing, or design

***Protect the Wild Clearwater Country!***

***Contact FOC to get involved.***

Local landowners in the Deary area convinced the Forest Service to make the Corralled Bear timber sale much less problematic. Clearwater National Forest personnel also deferred designating ORV routes in the sale and made a few more adjustments after an appeal by Friends of the Clearwater and others. We will be watching to see if the agency does what it said it would do in this area. Forest officials also approved a plethora of other projects with little public input. Although many of these proposals were benign, some would affect designated wilderness, and others would impact roadless areas. We are exploring avenues to keep these and all Clearwater basin wildlands wild. FOC is also following recent plans for mines on area public lands – the i-minerals feldspar project near Bovill and a cyanide heap leach gold mine above Elk City. We will keep you updated as these and other proposals’ progress. Please sign up for the FOC bi-weekly e-newsletter at our website, to receive the most current information.



*Gray Wolf (Canis lupus) (Defenders of Wildlife photo)*

## Clearwater Wolves Targeted for First ESA 10(j) Rule Killings

**Helen Yost**

In January 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) adopted the revised regulations of section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This new rule substantially supports justifications for killing reintroduced, endangered gray wolves to nominally protect herds of elk, deer, and other wild ungulates in the Northern Rockies. Prior section 10(j) regulations, adopted in 2005, allowed states and tribes to kill wolves if they caused “unacceptable impacts” on an ungulate herd or population. The involved agencies were required to document both a decline in ungulate numbers and wolf predation as the primary source of this loss. The revised ESA section 10(j) regulations, however, eliminate these requirements and instead hold as their major criteria only the failure of a wild ungulate population to meet management objectives and wolves as one of the major causes. The new rule greatly expands the definition of unacceptable impacts to include wolf effects on ungulate behavior, movements, nutrition, cow-calf ratios, and other characteristics beyond population size. State or tribal managers are authorized to kill wolves to accommodate “appropriate” ungulate management goals, even those developed to reduce or eliminate predators in areas with plentiful game animals. Moreover, the modified 10(j) regulations allow not just landowners and federally permitted agents but also any citizen to kill wolves caught attacking their livestock or domestic animals.

All of these provisions were devised in tandem with the first USFWS wolf delisting rule, as stop-gap measures that promote the most effective form of wolf depletion – state agent killing – in case delisting of Northern Rockies wolves does not proceed. Implementation of state wildlife department proposals to reduce wolf numbers under the previous 10(j) regulations was thwarted by several factors. First, despite the presence of a recovering wolf population, most elk populations in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming have not only increased to all-time highs but have exceeded current statewide objectives. Second, wolves are neither the sole predator nor the primary cause of any ungulate population decreases or negative trends in the Northern Rockies, as other factors, such as extreme weather, habitat quality and quantity, and hunter depletion, may also contribute to declines. The Fish and Wildlife Service asserts that the new 10(j) rule is necessary because the prior regulations required “unattainable” thresholds for wolf impacts before state agents could justify wolf killing. Even though a federal court found USFWS wolf recovery goals insufficient to foster genetic interchange and its subsequent delisting plan arbitrary, the agency nonetheless avers that wolf mortality encouraged by the revised 10(j) regulations will not impede recovery if each state maintains 20 breeding pairs and 200 wolves of the approximately 1,500 wolves presently in the region.

Because USFWS must approve state and tribal determinations of unacceptable wolf impacts under the new 10(j) rule, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has asked its permission to kill wolves in the Lolo management zone of the upper Clearwater River basin, to supposedly protect elk and deer herds. According to Fred Trevey, an Idaho Fish and Game commissioner in Lewiston, the request initiates a contingency plan formulated to advance state wolf reductions if the Northern Rockies wolf population retained federal protections under the current regulatory review process and future decisions of the Obama administration. On November 6, 2008, mere days after the national election selected a more environmentally responsible administration, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission issued six Wolf Management Directives, one of which authorizes IDFG:

To develop and aggressively utilize all tools and methods available under the new 10(j) Rule to control wolves in critical areas that are impacting ungulates, starting with the Lolo zone and progressing to other critical areas, in the event that delisting does not occur.

*See Wolves, page 5*

### *Wolves, continued from page 4*

Idaho Fish and Game Director Cal Groen believes that his agency can provide the scientific proof that wolves are significantly impacting elk in the Clearwater basin. If IDFG can also demonstrate how these elk are not meeting population objectives set by wildlife managers, USFWS could grant the state authority to kill all but the 200 wolves required throughout the state by the federal wolf recovery plan. Elected Idaho officials support these malevolent wolf-control plans and continue to push for ultimate, if not immediate, removal of Idaho wolves from the federal endangered species list. Representative Walt Minnick, Senator Jim Risch, and Governor Butch Otter are working to convince Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and the Obama administration that Idaho is prepared to manage wolves and that delisting should proceed. Otter has pledged to enlist the support of other Western states and produce a letter from their governors to the new administration explaining the wolf situation and urging delisting. IDFG is also encouraging Salazar to move forward with delisting on the premises that minimum wolf recovery has occurred and that approved state wolf management plans are sufficient to sustain wolves.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has not yet formally and publicly documented its specific plans to deplete the Clearwater population of wolves. On December 18, 2008, Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) wrote to Steve Nadeau, the IDFG Large Carnivore Program Manager in Boise, requesting information related to wolf predation of elk in the Lolo zone. In accordance with the Idaho Public Records Act, we asked for various data from the Lolo and Selway management zones pertaining to cow elk losses, elk mortality last winter, and the range condition, trend, and carrying capacity of elk habitat. FOC also inquired about the methods that IDFG employs to determine its elk population objectives, the causes and predator species sources of elk death, and wolf population numbers and density. We additionally requested records of communication between IDFG and the Forest Service associated with witnessed helicopter landings in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness to presumably facilitate wolf census data collection. In response, on January 8, 2009, FOC received an IDFG letter that explained the calculation method used to estimate wolf densities and that referred us to online documents, including their Wolf Management Directives as well as their Wolf Conservation and Management in Idaho Progress Report 2007, available at their website: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/manage>.

On February 2, 2009, Friends of the Clearwater, along with other conservation groups represented by Earthjustice, reopened and requested a summary judgment of a lawsuit contesting the revised 10(j) rule. This case was suspended last summer after the same federal district court in Missoula ordered a preliminary injunction of the first wolf delisting plan. The plaintiffs hope to resolve the legality of this latest threat to wolves, especially with the possibility of hundreds of IDFG-imposed wolf deaths looming over the Clearwater basin. We will continue to closely monitor IDFG's plans and future USFWS delisting attempts, so that wolf packs in Clearwater wildlands and throughout the Northern Rockies can thrive and attain realistic recovery. FOC would also appreciate your efforts to persuade Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to retain endangered species status for regional wolves and to revoke the recent changes to the Endangered Species Act section 10(j) regulations. Please contact him by mail at: Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240, or by phone at: 202-208-7351.

MAKE YOUR COFFEE  
WITH CLEAR WATER  
AND COFFEE ROASTED  
IN THE HEART OF  
WILD COUNTRY!



Order a pound  
of **Wild Clearwater Blend** coffee  
by Landgrove Coffee of Troy, Idaho.  
**10% of proceeds directly benefit  
FOC work to protect  
the Wild Clearwater Country.**  
Contact Friends of the Clearwater  
for ordering information.

## Is There a NREPA in the House?

### *Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act Re-Introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives*

**Brett Haverstick**

The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) is visionary, national-interest legislation informed by current conservation biology principles, ecosystem processes, and regional economic trends. The bioregion of the bill's focus is still relatively intact and wild because it encompasses large units of roadless, national public lands that foster natural processes. The Northern Rockies still harbor all of the species present at the time of the Lewis and Clark expedition over two hundred years ago. NREPA (HR 980) aims to protect this native biodiversity and the high quality of life that continues to draw human populations to the region.

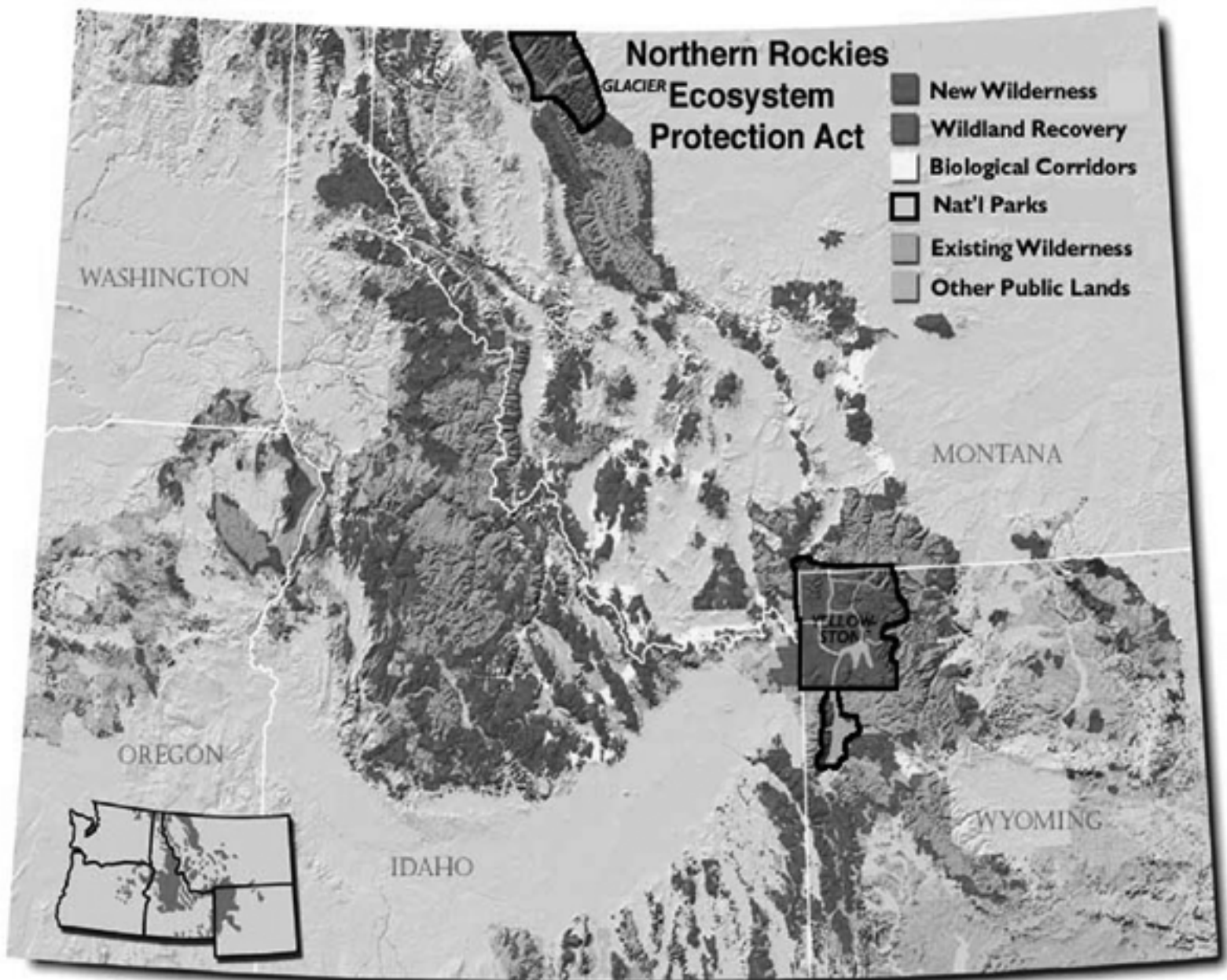
Introduced in the U.S. House on February 11, 2009, NREPA would designate approximately 24 million acres of roadless public lands as wilderness within the National Wilderness Preservation System. These wild areas consist of 9.5 million acres in Idaho, 7.5 million acres in Montana, 5.5 million acres in Wyoming, .75 million acres in Oregon, and .5 million acres in Washington. Eighty-five percent of these lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service, eleven percent is overseen by the National Park Service, and the remaining four percent is maintained by the Bureau of Land Management.

As specified by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, NREPA would designate nearly 60 river systems as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational. Over 1,800 miles of pristine waterways would be protected from future development and despoliation. Headwaters that flow into diverse river systems – the Green, Missouri, and Snake rivers – would be safeguarded. The aquatic component of NREPA is crucial for maintaining water quality in the Northern Rockies and assisting recovery of endangered fish populations.

*See NREPA, page 7*

### FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER EXTENDS OUR GRATITUDE TO BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT THE REGION FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Adventure Learning Camps	Affinity Farm	Allegra Print & Imaging
Arrow Clayworks	Body Song Studio	BookPeople of Moscow
Brused Books	Cactus Computer Company	Camas Prairie Winery
Copy Court	Cowgirl Chocolates	Culligan Water
Eclectica/Safari Pearl Comics	Finn Riggins	Fusion Denim Boutique
Guitars Friend	Hawg's Grill	Healing Point Clinic
Hodgins Drug Store	Howard Hughes Video	Hyperspod Sports
John's Alley Tavern	Kaleidoscope Frame Shop & Gallery	Kimberling Insurance Agency
La Casa Lopez Mexican Restaurant	Ron Landeck, Attorney	Landgrove Coffee
Latah County Title Company	The Law Offices of Magyar & Rauch	Lochsa Connection
Marco Polo Imports	Marsh's Trading Post	MaryJanesFarm
Mikey's Gyros	Moscow Bagel & Deli	Moscow Chiropractic Clinic
Moscow Florist & Gifts	Moscow Food Co-Op	Moscow School of Massage
The Moscow Yoga Center	The Natural Abode	Nectar Restaurant
North Idaho Athletic Club	Northwest River Supplies	One World Cafe
Orchard Farm	Otto's Produce Market	The Palouse Ocularium
Paradise Creek Bicycles	Patty's Mexican Kitchen & Catering	Pizza Perfection
Plush Brush Unlimited	Printer Pro	Sunil Ramalingam, Attorney
Red Door Restaurant	Royal Motor Inn	Rumorz Salon
Salmon River Experience	San Miguel's Mexican Restaurant	Shirt Shack
Sisters' Brew Coffee House	Spring Valley Garden Shop	Sweet Peas & Sage
Brian Thie, Attorney	Tri-State Store	Twister's Salon
Tye Dye Everything	University City Realty	Wheatberries Bake Shop
The Wild Hair	Wine Company of Moscow	Dr. Karen Young, L.Ac.



*Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (HR 980)*

***NREPA, continued from page 6***

NREPA would also enhance management of public lands while the climate is changing. As vegetation adapts to warmer temperatures and invasive species further dominate the landscape, wildlife and plant populations will move in search of optimal habitat. NREPA establishes Biological Linkage Corridors that connect core wilderness areas and allow species to migrate across elevation and latitude. Because the Northern Rockies bioregion also serves as an important carbon sink, NREPA answers the severe challenges of carbon sequestration and reduction of atmospheric emissions currently facing the United States.

Through its Wildland Recovery System, NREPA would restore over one million acres of damaged wildlands throughout the Northern Rockies. This program would stimulate sustainable economic growth by employing local citizens in work on public lands and by ensuring the continuance of the natural amenities and high quality of life of regional communities. In short, NREPA invests in the economic base of the region: its clean air and resilient watersheds, abundant wildlife and fish populations, numerous recreation opportunities, and the outstanding aesthetic values of wild places.

*(Editor's Note: Please ask your U.S. Representative to support NREPA by contacting them at: [http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW\\_by\\_State.shtml](http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml).)*

## **Collaborative Process: The Future of Wildlands Conservation or Passing Fad? (Part 2)**

**Gary Macfarlane and Chris Norden**

VISIT OUR MONTHLY DONOR LINK AT  
[WWW.FRIENDSOFTHECLEARWATER.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFTHECLEARWATER.ORG)  
TO GIVE \$1 TO \$100 PER MONTH  
FOR CONTINUOUS  
WILDLANDS PROTECTION.

In the last newsletter, we scrutinized and questioned whether the recent trend toward so-called collaborative efforts addressing public land issues in the region is in the public interest of both humans and non-humans. We explored the basic tension between one view of this collaboration as representative democracy and another that sees it as little more than elitist, self-serving deal making. The first view may envision achieving something, such as wilderness designation, as a positive result of collaborative trade-offs that may even give up public lands. The second view may consider such a deal as leading to less public land protection overall, especially if the designated areas in point already has significant protection. In such cases, collaborators trade public lands for personal victories or organizational “wins,” while compromising the broad public interest in keeping public land in public ownership. Which of these two different views of “collaborative” deliberations on the status and management of public lands in the Northern Rockies are operating circa 2009? Is it one of a group of stakeholders from different interests meeting to resolve public land issues in their region? Or is it one of a limited group of mostly unelected, local people presuming their representation of the nation at large and making de facto decisions, couched as recommendations, about public land owned by all Americans?

In part one of this series of two articles, we also profiled Idaho Senator Crapo’s emerging Clearwater Collaborative and raised three questions about its processes: What is it supposed to solve? Who is invited? and Who is running the show? We explored the first of these questions in part one and will look at the other two in this final part. Our first article also evaluated the science-based Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (see pages 6-7) as an alternative, visionary model for public land allocation and management in this region.

Regarding the Clearwater Collaborative, who is invited, and who is running the show? As perhaps the strangest parts of its history, these processes require some background explanation. A few years ago, Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) met with the Great Burn Study Group, an environmental organization from Missoula, who had an idea to convene collaborative discussions about only a portion of the Clearwater National Forest, although the resulting present process seems to include the entire Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests. We pointed out that this group hadn’t been involved in most Clearwater National Forest issues because they had limited their area of interest to a single Idaho/Montana roadless area. Furthermore, we asked them about what they were going to specifically collaborate on, what they were willing to give up, and why they wanted to collaborate while existing public involvement processes, such as those instituted by the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), enfranchise and involve all interested Americans, not just a handpicked few. Their answers, when they had them, were vague generalities about possible wilderness legislation or forest plan revisions. They had obviously invested little thought in how to go about this collaborative process. We expressed skepticism about this approach and its productivity, although we left the meeting with a mutual agreement to communicate. The last time we heard from the Great Burn Study Group, they had not been awarded foundation funds that they sought for their collaborative project.

*See Collaboration? page 9*



*Winter in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness*

BI-WEEKLY E-MAIL UPDATES  
ON THE PLACES YOU CARE ABOUT:  
**YOUR PUBLIC LANDS!**

CONTACT US AT  
[FOC@FRIENDSOFTHECLEARWATER.ORG](mailto:FOC@FRIENDSOFTHECLEARWATER.ORG)  
TO RECEIVE THE BIG WILD BI-WEEKLY.

### *Collaboration? continued from page 8*

After FOC learned of the Clearwater Collaborative and read a May 2008 article about it in the *Lewiston Morning Tribune*, we sent a Freedom of Information Act request to the Forest Service to obtain more information about it. We found that Senator Crapo's staff sent out invitations to join the group in May 2008, even though participant selection had been ongoing during several previous months. Friends of the Clearwater did not receive an invitation from Crapo's office. We learned that the Clearwater Collaborative is comprised of a few large and one small environmental organizations, timber industry representatives, outfitters and guides, other varied interests, and governmental officials as either participants or observers, including Forest Service personnel, some local county commissioners, the Nez Perce Tribe, and Crapo's staff.

When local citizens, after seeing the May 2008 newspaper article, asked Crapo's staff whether new people could join the collaborative, they were told that the collaborative group, not the Senator, determined inclusion in its processes. Interestingly, a representative of one of the participating conservation organizations told a Missoula-based wilderness group that it should contact Crapo's office to become involved. Some of the collaborative's conservation groups, who met with FOC in late summer 2008, said that potential participants need to come to the collaborative's meetings before being invited. While these "he said/she said" variations on invitation dynamics may seem a bit picayune, a fundamental democratic principle is at stake in these process, namely, genuine public involvement in land management decisions, as through NEPA protocol versus the mere appearance of such participation.

We are still uncertain whether the collaborative is currently open to citizens or closed with no more room at the table. Nonetheless, while someone from Rhode Island can participate in normal public processes, such a person couldn't participate in this series of Idaho meetings to decide the fate of land belonging to all Americans. In effect, the Clearwater Collaborative expects unelected people to represent the rest of U.S. citizens, because they supposedly embody a variety of perspectives. Is this real democracy or mere window-dressing?

None of the organizations involved in this collaborative have a stronger record of participation in legitimate public processes than FOC. In fact, some of these conservation groups have seldom commented on various proposals for management of the Clearwater or Nez Perce national forests, while Friends of the Clearwater has participated in all management aspects of these forests. Accordingly, the Clearwater Collaborative is convened and controlled mainly by stakeholders who have either ignored or not fully participated in legitimate public involvement processes. Consider as an analog a relatively small group of voters, plus a couple of elected officials, deciding to organize an alternative election, simply because they didn't like the results or the process of a prior legitimate election open to all citizens, when half of these voters did not go to the polls the first time.

Who pays for the Clearwater Collaborative? The Freedom of Information Act provides the answer: we all do through our tax dollars. The Forest Service is obligated to provide up to \$20,000 to Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development, a quasi-governmental non-profit entity chartered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who facilitates this process. Some members of the collaborative, such as the steering committee and co-chairs, may also receive salaries for their work. The bottom line is that the collaborative will likely ignore the concerns of citizens who can't, are unable to, or won't participate in it. Those who participate risk undercutting the public interest and existing, legitimate, involvement processes, even if they have the best interests of the land and people at heart. While we remain skeptical of this collaborative process, we will continue to meet with and listen to conservationists who are part of it. We hope that they will listen to our concerns as well.

As it now stands, the existing public involvement process for influencing public land decisions is open to all Americans. Legislation such as the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, a visionary proposal for regional federal lands that doesn't pretend to be a "deal," has also been reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. The continued diligence of FOC and its many supporters and allies in pursuing those two avenues of public participation currently offers some of the best outcomes for Clearwater wildlands and the public interest in the long run.



## Four in Memoriam

### Gary Macfarlane

Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) lost four friends last year. They were remarkable people who made the world a better place. Many of us will miss them.

#### Blackie Davis

If anyone embodied outdoor Idaho, it was Blackie. His son, Cass Davis, is a well-known activist and citizen in Moscow. Cass got his strong environmental and outdoor ethic from Blackie, who was a union member with a noteworthy history of organizing workers in the Silver Valley of Idaho.

Blackie and Cass were elk hunting when Blackie fell ill. Cass missed much of the elk season, spending time with his father instead. Happy hunting, Blackie!

#### Liz Hall

Liz was a long-time member of Friends of the Clearwater. She was an avid naturalist and loved the wildlands in this area. Though small in stature, she was grand in presence. She was very active and always happily engaged in some meaningful endeavor. Liz and her family have always been advocates of wild country. Bill, her husband, took film footage of a trip down Glen Canyon with David Brower, the decades-long leader of the Sierra Club. Her son Dave is an effective champion of the Palouse Prairie and a recipient of FOC's Conservationist of the Year award.

It was always a pleasure to see Liz. I was saddened to learn from her several years ago that she had cancer. She beat the odds for all of those years; that is just like Liz. She was a great asset to the community in and around Moscow and Troy, Idaho.

#### Charles Jannings

I knew Charles as the father of Gretchen Stewart and father-in-law of Dean Stewart, two stalwart members of FOC. Charles was also a strong member of Friends of the Clearwater. He loved this area and all the wild Rockies, being a resident of Billings, Montana, on the eastern side of the bioregion. Charles was a doctor who worked in populations that were under-served by the medical community.

I remember when he and Gretchen together participated in the Senior Olympics. (I hope that I am not giving anything away here, as I also qualify for the Senior Olympics). They both did very well in that event.

#### Clif Merritt

When and if the "book" is ever written on wilderness preservation, the one person who will stand out is Clif Merritt. A Montana native most recently of Hamilton, Clif was a mentor to many of us and was involved in the wilderness struggle with stalwarts like Stewart "Brandy" Brandborg, Mardie and Olaus Murie, Cecil Garland, and many others even before the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964.

Many graying wildland advocates have Clif Merritt stories to relate. I remember spending a few nights at Clif's home when he lived in Denver nearly 30 years ago. A few of us young folks were attending a wilderness conference that he had organized. Clif was so focused on his work that he couldn't find his way home after he picked us up at the airport. I wrongly assumed that he had recently moved to a new house. I guess that the Denver suburbs at night will do that to a guy from Montana.

Above all, Clif was a man of honor, integrity, and decency. Those are rare qualities today.

I/WE WILL KEEP THE CLEARWATER COUNTRY WILD THROUGH THIS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER:

Grizzly \$1,000\_\_\_\_\_ Wolf \$500\_\_\_\_\_ Wolverine \$250\_\_\_\_\_
Salmon \$100\_\_\_\_\_ Steelhead \$50\_\_\_\_\_ Trout \$25\_\_\_\_\_
Coeur d'Alene Salamander \$15\_\_\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZipCode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to volunteer? Yes No Area of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_



*Idaho Wildlands (Chuck Pezeshki photo)*

## FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2009

*Thursday, March 26*

N. Rockies Grizzlies: Biology, Ecology, & Policy  
Writer David Knibb & Researcher Lynne Nelson  
University of Idaho, TLC 40, 7 p.m.

*Thursday, April 23*

Slideshow of Pre-Dam Lower Snake River  
Jerry White of Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition  
Washington State University, CUE 202, 7 p.m.

*Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3*

Renaissance Fair FOC Food Booth featuring  
Huckleberry Crepes (Volunteers Needed)  
East City Park, E. Third & Hayes Streets, Moscow

*Tuesday, May 12*

Motorized Recreation Damage to Public Lands  
Expose' by Ecologist/Writer George Wuertner  
Place and Time to be Arranged

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

**Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit #470  
Moscow, ID**