



# CLEARWATER DEFENDER

## NEWS OF THE BIG WILD

A PUBLICATION OF  
FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

ISSUED QUARTERLY  
FALL 2011, VOL. 8 NO.3



*Jim Tarter in the Wilderness*  
Wes Bascom Photo

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(AND MUCH MORE)

### In Honor of Jim Tarter FOC Board & Staff

Modernist author TS Eliot begins his magnum opus poem "The Waste Land" by asserting that *April is the cruellest month*. Eliot is a half a year off this time around, at least for the Friends of the Clearwater family, as we mourn the untimely death of board member, former board president, and great friend Jim Tarter. Jim was a Professor of English at Lewis-Clark State College when he passed away at his home at age 52 on October 10th. He came to Moscow, Idaho ten years ago, and quickly gravitated to FOC as a natural home for this well-traveled, knowledgeable, and passionate wildlands advocate and activist.

One of many FOC stalwarts with Midwestern roots, Jim grew up in Bay City, Michigan, an industrial point source for many carcinogens. A cancer survivor himself, Jim lost one of his two sisters to cancer also, and

**See Friend page 4**



***Gospel Hump Wilderness***  
**Lighthawk and FOC File Photo**

**Flying High**

Thank you Steve Garman and the entire team at Lighthawk for donating a flight over the Upper North Fork/ Meadow Creek roadless area! Dr. Fred Rabe and FOC are now working on publishing a booklet to garner more protection for this spectacular landscape.

**New-Land Foundation**

We would like to acknowledge the New-Land Foundation for their generous support and for helping us defend Wild Clearwater Country!

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**FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER**

THE CLEARWATER DEFENDER  
 IS A PUBLICATION OF:

**Friends of the Clearwater**  
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Friends of the Clearwater, a recognized nonprofit organization since 1987, defends the 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 Big Wild. Articles in the Clearwater Defender do not necessarily reflect the views of Friends of the Clearwater.

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### Reaching Out To You Brett Haverstick

Let's hope you were able to get out onto the rivers and up into the high country this summer to experience what Wild Clearwater Country has to offer. The author was incredibly grateful to get into places like the Lochsa Research Natural Area, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, the Meadow Creek Roadless Area, the Weitas Creek Roadless Area, the Mallard Larkins Roadless Area, and the Grandmother Mountain Wilderness Study Area. Why does summer have to end!?

Along with advancing our Fortynine Meadows RNA proposal, and continuing to advocate Wilderness designation for Weitas Creek, we still have our wildlife monitoring camera set up near Little Boulder Creek. We have been impressed with the range and frequency of moose, black bear, and cougar using this recently decommissioned road. Thanks again to Wildlands CPR for their great work on the Clearwater National Forest! We look forward to working with them in the future and getting more deteriorating roads decommissioned across the Clearwater Basin.

Our outreach calendar is set for the next couple months and we want to make sure you know what's going on. On **Friday October 28th** consider coming to the FOC office for a Pumpkin Carving Potluck! Bring a small dish or something to snack on, and a pumpkin to carve, as we gear up for the Halloween weekend. Event is family friendly and is from 6:00 – 8:00pm.

On **Saturday November 5th**, it's time for our Annual Meeting & Gathering. Wow, does the time fly! The event will be from 6:00 – 10:00pm in the Great Room of the 1912 Center, located at 412 E. Third Street in Moscow. As usual, there will be live music, a community potluck, drinks, an awards ceremony, and a silent auction, which will include an assortment of items and goodies donated by local businesses, artists, and members of our wildland community. We will also be electing board members for two-year terms. Please join us for this memorable evening and rocking good time!

On **Thursday November 17th**, FOC is teaming up with Lewis-Clark State College faculty for a Salmo Recovery Panel Discussion from 12:00 - 1:30 pm at the LCSC Student Union Building Solarium. The program will focus on the socio-economic and ecological benefits of decommissioning the Lower Snake River Dams.

On **Monday December 5th**, we are proud to welcome George Wuerthner to Moscow for a presentation on predator ecology, with a focus on wolves, and their relationship with other wildlife and the landscape. George is an accomplished and well-respected author, photographer, and ecologist who has spent a couple decades working and writing about the Northern Rockies. The event is from 7:00

– 9:00pm at the 1912 Center. Cookies and eggnog will be provided.



*The Lookout Mountain Crew*  
FOC File Photo

### Fortynine Meadows Update

In late June, Friends of the Clearwater and Dr. Fred Rabe met with Forest Service officials to discuss our proposal to designate Fortynine Meadows as a Research Natural Area (RNA). The purpose of the RNA system is to preserve a variety of ecosystem types and protect some of our nation's vast heritage for future generations. RNA's provide baseline data for research, maintain biodiversity, and act as outdoor laboratories that foster education and deeper understanding of the natural world.

Fortynine Meadows is a unique, sub-alpine peatland ecosystem located near the headwaters of the Little North Fork. The meadow is approximately 500 acres and contains sensitive and rare plant species, including a high diversity of macro-invertebrates. It also provides crucial habitat for Bull Trout and West-slope Cutthroat Trout. We think Fortynine Meadows deserves stronger protection and we look forward to working with the Forest Service to advance this proposal.



*Field Visit With Forest Service Officials*  
FOC File Photo

**Friend cont. from page 1**

was known nationally and internationally as a major voice in environmental literary criticism, focusing specifically on environmental justice and industrially produced illness. His published work largely focuses on environmental justice issues in Indian country.

Jim attended the University of Colorado, where he triple-majored in English, History, and Philosophy. While living in Boulder, he studied, skied, and bartended, also growing into an aware and active environmental and social justice advocate. He completed his formal education with a PhD in English at the University of California-Irvine. Prior to coming to Idaho to teach, Jim served as visiting professor at both Marymount College in southern California, as well as University of Oregon in Eugene, where he also served as a primary caregiver for his sister during her illness.

In more recent years, Jim was recognized as an excellent and committed teacher, receiving LCSC's President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, along with a Fulbright Fellowship that enabled him to spend a semester in Taiwan teaching at Tamkang University, focusing primarily on environmental literature and philosophy.

Strongly conscious of wild nature as a wellspring of health and healing, Jim was a fixture on Moscow Mountain, biking mountain trails through late fall, then skiing until late spring. He was also a steady companion on the hiking trail, logging many miles in central Idaho's Big Wild. As Eliot puts it, later in his same poem: *In the mountains, there you feel free.*

Those of us who knew him well will particularly remember Jim as a kind and caring person, equally so to human as well as animal friends. Jim was able to put to rest his two great animal companions before his passing, dogs Prairie and Jake, at ages 18 and 16 respectively. Jim adopted Prairie, a mixed-breed Chihuahua, from the beach in Baja, Mexico back in the early 1990s. He is survived by his mother, as well as sister Nancy Wilder, her husband David, and their two children, all of Moscow. A conversation with Jim would rarely continue for long without loving mention of his niece and nephew.

Near the close of his poem, Eliot quotes Shakespeare's *Tempest*, offering a line that seeks to put human death in a broader ecological context: *Those are pearls that were his eyes.* Following this, a line that pretty well nails what we do, why we do it, and why we continue on despite grievous losses like this one: *Shall I at least set my lands in order.*

**Jim Tarter**

**Friends of the Clearwater Board Member 2005 - 2011  
Board President 2007 - 2009**

**Wes Bascom photo**

**Life as the Intern**  
**Marissa McGee**

My name is Marissa McGee and I am a 23-year-old student at Washington State University. I was born and raised in Pennsylvania, but spent the majority of my childhood and adolescent years in Bellevue, Washington. I have been blessed with outstanding parents and one older sister, currently working on her master's in International Relations at the University of California San Diego.

I started my university experience at California Baptist University as an avid member of their University Choir and Orchestra, but soon transferred to WSU to pursue a degree from the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication. After taking this past school year off from Pullman life to study abroad in Germany and England, I am back for my final year of undergraduate work at WSU, graduating in May of 2012 with my Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Communication and a minor in Music. I have been a part of WSU's Greek community for three years as a proud member of Delta Delta Delta and have been heavily involved in my chapter through its philanthropy, sisterhoods and programming events. I now serve as the Vice President of Public Relations for Tri Delta and am also involved in a variety of other extracurricular organizations, including the Washington State University Concert Choir and Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU). I have a passion for my faith, as well as kickboxing, digital photography, vocal performance and theatre. I am excited to see what life after graduation holds, both in my personal and professional life.

I am currently the Media Communications Intern at Friends of the Clearwater, working part time at their office in Moscow several times a week. This internship position focuses on the use of social media to raise awareness of local environmental issues and FOC events. I am responsible for improving FOC's relationship with the local and regional communities and media outlets. I assist with online photo archives, outreach/community events, the weekly radio show, Wild Clearwater Country, the quarterly newsletters and postcards, and I manage the organization's Facebook account. I am enjoying the hands-on social media experience with this FOC internship, and am quickly learning about the local wildlife species and roadless areas that FOC and its community works hard to protect.

This internship is broadening my horizons and providing me with skills I may need regardless of my job title. My ideal profession, however, will most likely be a form of Organizational Communications. I plan to invest time and effort very soon into experiences that involve Org. Com. consulting, event planning, department recruiting, or internal training. Because I have no set plan post-graduation, I

am considering a variety of options including paid or unpaid internships, out of state job applications/interviews, and/or possibly grad school. A master's degree would provide a richer education and a deeper understanding of the communications world and could very well be the key to landing my dream job. Until then, I am enjoying my last year of undergrad work with fellow students, sisters, friends, and now, Friends of the Clearwater.



*Marissa McGee*  
 Roy Godina Photo

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 CLEARWATER  
 COUNTRY SHOW**

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 if you wish to be a call-in guest on the  
 radio show or if there's an issue you  
 want to learn more about!*

## Adios National Forests? Gary Macfarlane

My friend, Scott Silver, the Executive Director of Wild Wilderness, seems prescient. The problem is most people fail to heed his warnings. Nearly 20 years ago, Scott cautioned how the confluence of anti-government corporate interests and federal budget woes (real or imagined) would threaten the very existence of public lands. This horrible idea of stealing our public land heritage and giving it to private corporations, and/or local special interests, is not new. It even predates the so-called sagebrush rebellion of the late 70s and early 80s. However, with budget uncertainties, never since before the time of Teddy Roosevelt has the threat been so great.

Recently, the county commissioners from five Idaho Counties—Clearwater, Idaho, Shoshone, Boundary and Valley Counties—proposed a radical measure. They want to take over management of 200,000 acres of national forests in Idaho. The ostensible reason is to generate revenue for the counties via logging or other industrial activities. Currently, counties that include public lands receive panoply of federal payments from US taxpayers. With federal budget concerns, the counties fear those programs may decline. While funding for county services, such as

schools, is an important issue that should be resolved—indeed, the same is true for public services at all governmental levels—devolving control and management of land owned by all Americans to local entities is the wrong step.

In any case, the federal commitment to county payments seems to remain strong. E & E wire service recently reported that Representative Doc Hastings (R, WA) and Senator Lisa Murkowski (R, AK) support the continuance of the federal PILT fund (payment in lieu of taxes). Senator Harry Reid (D, NV) recently was quoted as saying that there is a bi-partisan deal to continue funding the Secure Rural Schools bill for another five years.

The counties' proposal would exempt these lands from federal environmental laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The only exceptions are federal laws that also apply to Idaho's Department of Land. It should also be noted that the national forest management laws and plans have far better measures to protect fisheries, soils, wildlife, recreation, and watersheds than exist for state land.

Unfortunately, this proposal reinforces the stereotype that local western governments are giving the finger to the American public while picking the pocket of the US taxpayer. Western public land states receive more in federal funding than is paid via taxes. How ironic it is that



*Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area*  
Gerry Snyder Photo

those counties who seek money from federal sources by appropriating federal lands want no responsibility to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. These county politicians are of the same political and ideological stripe as the political hacks who called poor people in this country “welfare queens.”

Furthermore, logging on the national forests in Idaho is a money loser. It costs money in order to maintain other values like fisheries, soil productivity and wildlife habitat. That is why the county proposal exempts most environmental laws. The national forests are far less productive for tree farming than are private and state lands. Fire fighting, an expensive program, would remain a federal function on these lands, according to the proposal. Thus, the citizens of the US would bear the costs of this program, in terms of dollars and environmental degradation, and would receive no benefits.

History has taught us that giving land away to states or local counties has not been a great source of income for the schools. Some local and state governments squandered, through graft and other forms of corruption, much of the land bestowed on the state by the federal government for the support of schools. Furthermore, state management of “school trust lands” as they are sometimes called, has been inconsistent. In Idaho, for example, ranchers pay very little to graze livestock when the market rate is

much higher. This is contrary to state law and the constitution, yet the practice continues in spite of legal efforts by Western Watersheds Project.

The “quid pro quo” collaboration groups are inadvertently giving cover to proposals like these. In backroom deal-making found in collaborative groups, wilderness designation is traded for other favors. This makes wilderness legislation a commodity to be bought and sends the wrong signal that wilderness is a liability, that wilderness designation must be coupled with increased commodity extraction or devolution of public lands to local entities, and that the real decision-making on public lands should be made outside of the democratic public arena. Furthermore, one has to wonder why any so-called conservation organization would give credibility to someone like Idaho County Commissioner Skip Brandt who calls people concerned about the ecological integrity of our national forests “whack jobs.” Indeed, Skip Brandt maintains anti-wilderness, anti-wildlife and anti-public lands positions that are at odds with the rest of America.

As my friend Janine Blaeloch, Executive Director of Western Lands Projects wrote recently, “this represents another concentration of power and wealth similar to what is happening in all areas and sectors--public land is one of the few things left that we share, and it could end up in the hands of just a few.” That is a frightening thought.

The late Ted Trueblood, a noted Idaho outdoor writer and conservationist, said of the earlier sagebrush rebellion, “They’re fixin’ to steal your land.” The threat today is even greater than in the late 70s and early 80s. While it is doubtful this proposal will actually pass Congress, it does indicate a dangerous trend of devolving federal land management to local, so-called collaborative, private, or other special interests. Indeed, other similar measures by anti-conservation forces in Congress have had hearings and committee votes in the House. *(Author’s Note: The title is borrowed from Al Espinosa, FOC board member and retired fishery biologist extraordinaire.)*



*Beargrass in Weitas Roadless Area*  
Gerry SnyderPhoto

### **Memories from Mallard Ashley Lipscomb**

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Brett traced our backpacking loop on the map. “We’re going to take the 50 Trail along the Little North Fork Clearwater and pick up the less traveled 108 Trail to access the Mallard-Larkins. There may be ATV’s on the 50 trail because it’s a National Recreational Trail,” Brett admitted. “Then we’re going to tackle a 3,000-foot elevation gain to enter the Larkins.” I prepped myself mentally for ATV’s digging tire trenches into the trail, and a challenging climb to test my physical abilities.

Brett, Akadia (the super trail dog), and I set off down the 50 Trail. Our fears were never fulfilled. The trail showed little sign of motorized use! Plus, the stream crossing bridges, much to our delight, could not withstand the beatings from Mother Nature and were dilapidated and dysfunctional. Instead, we tackled log crossings, took in the Clearwater, and stood in awe of cedars towering over us. The eerie vibe of Trapper’s Cabin kept us moving down the trail, but a piece of me wanted to hack it to shreds before taking off. The primitive vibe along the trail was definitely a great way to access the roadless area.

Mallard-Larkins is a 260,000-acre gem full of solitude and ruggedness. As we climbed our way to the end of day two, Brett and I wanted nothing more than to find a prized lake, set up home, and take our rest day. Larkins Lake became our retreat from the hustle and bustle of the world. We sunned on rocks, swam in the refreshing water, lazily read books, and watched a moose forge the lake with her calf. Brett captured landscape “money shots” through his lens. With a plethora of sub-alpine lakes, surrounded by lush, sub-alpine meadows, and craggy peaks, a shortage of shots proved impossible. Meanwhile, I kept my eyes peeled for wildflowers that only bloomed in mid to late summer. Glacier lilies, sub-alpine buttercups, yellow columbines, Indian paintbrush, and beargrass bloomed in brilliance, and took advantage of the short, but bountiful growing season.

Brett and I strolled from lake to lake. We tried to find the elusive Mudd Lake with no luck. Crag Lake offered high mountain views to the north, with distinct inlets and outlets jutting from the rocks and trees. Before reaching Heart Lake, however, we crossed three snowfields in the middle of summer! Brett skipped across the snowfields, while I couldn’t control my timidness, and slipped twenty feet down the first snowfield, only to be caught by an outcropping of rocks. Talk about re-evaluating personal abilities and growth. Please do not tell my mother about this incident! Oddly enough, we ran into two families camping at Northbound Lake, enjoying the serenity of

scenery and sunshine. How many families venture out into remote areas anymore? Every lake held a surprise.

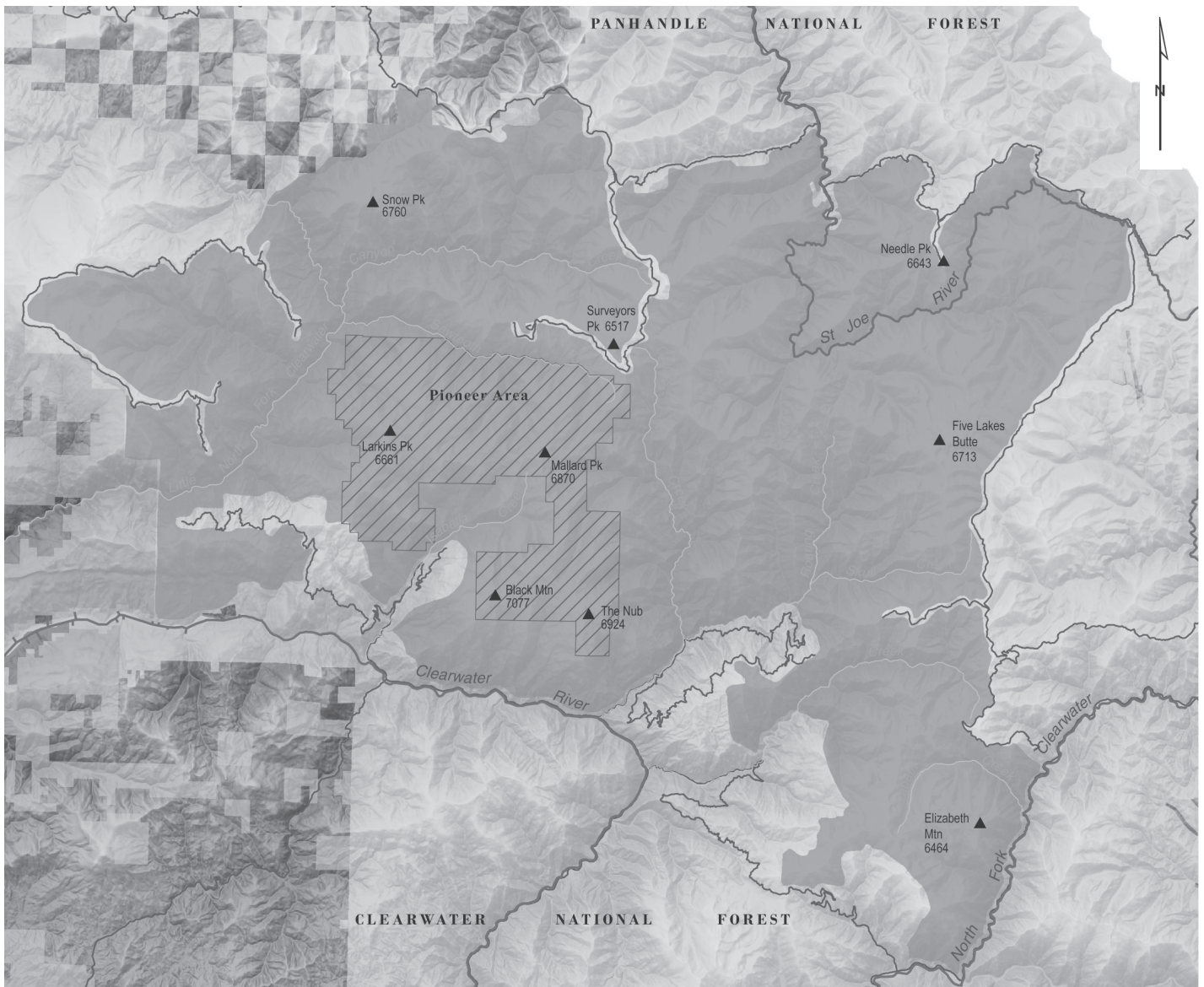
As we hiked out on our last day, our visions for the Little North Fork Clearwater and Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area crystallized. The Little North Fork Clearwater is a prime candidate for wild river designation under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. With old growth cedar and lush ferns along its banks, along with critical habitat for West-slope cutthroat and bull trout, there is no doubt this river should receive stronger protection from Congress. The Mallard-Larkins deserves full protection under the Wilderness Act too. The “Pioneer Area” is only a small piece of the larger roadless area, and there are still threats from mining, logging and unnecessary Forest Service proposals. Decommissioning a few Forest Service roads would connect more habitat and increase levels of biodiversity. No matter how you access the Mallard-Larkins, make sure you advocate for stronger protections of this stunning place.



*The Lure of the Little North Fork*  
FOC File Photo

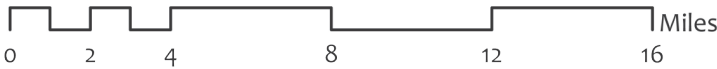


*Larkins Lake Looking West*  
FOC File Photo



## MALLARD-LARKINS

- Roadless Area and Proposed Wilder-
- National Forest
- State land
- Private land
- Peak
- River
- Stream or creek
- Road



As you can see from the map above, there is a lot more to the Mallard Larkins Roadless Area than the 30,000 acre “Pioneer Area.” Set aside by the Forest Service in 1969, the “rocks and ice” administrative designation is a fraction of this spectacular 260,000 acre landscape. The southeastern portion contains the northern-most extension of the Idaho batholith, with quartzite, schist and gneiss cropping out in other locations. There is a small population of mountain goats in the area, along with elusive species like lynx, wolverines, pine marten and wolves. Besides the Little North Fork Clearwater, Isabella Creek contains habitat for westslope cutthroat and bull trout. Along with fishermen, the area is also popular with deer and elk hunters, birders and backpackers, and the occasional white-water kayaker.

Like many roadless areas throughout north-central Idaho, there is a constant threat of road building and logging, mining and dredging, and motorized intrusions. As we speak, someone is pursuing a mining claim in the Mallard Larkins, and the Forest Service is contemplating flying in equipment. Instead of carving up the commons even further, our federal agencies should be decommissioning roads and working towards watershed restoration. By removing a few dirt roads, the Upper North Fork/Meadow Creek, Great Burn, Bighorn-Weitas, Pot Mountain, and Mallard Larkins roadless areas could be combined into a 900,000 acre block of wildness and splendor. The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) would designate all of this as Wilderness, of course.

## **Twenty Years of Work Pays Off** **Arlene Montgomery**

After nearly ten years of litigation and political interference, the bull trout finally have their habitat protected under the Endangered Species Act!!! The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's critical habitat designation includes 19,729 miles of streams and 488,251 acres of lakes in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Nevada, as well as 754 miles of coastal habitat in Washington state.

This includes federal lands as well as unoccupied habitat necessary for providing foraging habitat and maintaining connectivity for this wide-ranging migratory fish. Friends of the Wild Swan and Alliance for the Wild Rockies have been pressing the agency for a science-based critical habitat designation since January 2001.

There were exclusions for some lands covered by Habitat Conservation Plans, Dept. of Defense lands in Washington, and tribes who requested it. About 63.7% of designated critical habitat stream and shoreline water bodies is within or adjacent to federal land, 33.2% is adjacent to private land, 1.8% is adjacent to state land and 0.7% is adjacent to tribal land.

Following is a breakdown of the critical habitat designation by state:

**Montana:** 3,056 stream miles and 221,471 acres of lakes or reservoirs

**Idaho:** 8,772 stream miles and 170,218 acres of lakes or reservoirs

**Oregon:** 2,836 stream miles and 30,256 acres of lakes or reservoirs

**Washington:** 3,793 stream miles, 66,308 acres of lakes or reservoirs and 754 miles of marine shoreline

**Nevada:** 72 stream miles

Under the Endangered Species Act, critical habitat identifies geographic areas that contain features essential for the conservation of a listed species. The designation provides extra regulatory protection because projects cannot "adversely modify" critical habitat. The identification of critical habitat then leads to the prioritization of actions needed to recover the species. So our next step is to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service to finalize the recovery plans. Bull trout are primarily threatened by habitat degradation and fragmentation, blockage of migratory corridors, poor water quality, the effects of climate change and past fisheries management practices, including the

introduction of non-native species such as brown, lake and brook trout.

Bull trout are excellent indicators of water quality because they need cold, clean water and streambeds with little fine sediment. Protecting and restoring bull trout habitat also protects water quality, providing benefits for fish and people.

To see the details of the designation, maps, photos and other information, go to:

[www.fws.gov/pacific/bulltrout/CriticalHabitat.html](http://www.fws.gov/pacific/bulltrout/CriticalHabitat.html)

### Background:

Friends of the Wild Swan and Alliance for the Wild Rockies petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list bull trout under the Endangered Species Act in 1992. After four lawsuits bull trout were listed in the coterminous United States in 1998 and 1999.

In 2001 the groups filed suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for failing to designate critical habitat for bull trout as required under the Endangered Species Act. After three lawsuits this final critical habitat was designated. (*Ed. Note: Arlene Montgomery is Executive Director of Friends of the Wild Swan in Montana. She does incredible work with the feisty grass-roots organization she directs.*)



***Bull Trout Like It Cold & Clean***  
**US Fish & Wildlife Service Photo**

### **Maki Foundation**

We would like to acknowledge the  
Maki Foundation for their generous support  
and helping us defend  
Wild Clearwater Country!

**Dark Green Religion:  
Nature Spirituality and the Planetary Future  
by Bron Taylor**

This is a deeply fascinating and fulfilling book. Bron Taylor is a professor of Religion and Nature at the University of Florida. He keeps up-to-date on the doings of environmental organizations, including Friends of the Clearwater, and is a leading scholar on environmental organizations and philosophies.

So as not to be misunderstood, this is a book with strong scientific moorings. Bron Taylor is a rigorous social scientist and in the book he defines, categorizes and studies religious beliefs that hold nature as sacred. He chose the name, “Dark Green Religion” for a precise reason so as to include non-supernatural philosophies that hold nature as sacred.

I won’t go into detail—you will have to read the book—but he documents the origins of the idea of a “green religion” from native people, Thoreau (the seminal figure in his research), Muir, Leopold to living people like Jane Goodall, Joanna Macy and Dave Foreman. Those who knew some of the people involved in the Cove-Mallard Campaign will recognize the tragic story of Bill Rogers, also known as Avalon. My only complaint is I feel it should have included a thorough analysis of, “The Need for Wilderness.” That piece, by Wilderness Act author Howard Zahniser, is perhaps the most deeply eloquent piece ever about wilderness and it more than fits the criteria of religion set out by Taylor in the introduction. *Dark Green Religion* even has a fun chapter on surfing. I was completely unaware that surfing has a deeply natural and religious strain.

Finally, the book is empathetic with the views it studies while also analyzing the both positive and negative sides of those beliefs. The book is not sterile. Rather, it captures the complexities that drive those concerned about the natural world, including a personal coda which helps the reader understand the author and his motivations. I highly recommend this book.

Reviewed by Gary Macfarlane

Contact us at

[foc@friendsoftheclearwater.org](mailto:foc@friendsoftheclearwater.org)  
to receive the Big Wild Bi-Weekly.  
**Issues. Happenings. Updates.**

**The Ridgerunner  
by Richard Ripley**

Born in Kentucky and orphaned at a young age, Bill Moreland headed west and discovered Wild Clearwater Country in the early 1930s. With a spirit as wild as a wolverine, he was a wanderer, a vagabond, and a journeyman that found his peace in the North Fork Clearwater. For thirteen plus years, Moreland walked places like Skull Creek, Collins Creek, Isabella Creek, and Goat Ridge. Without batting an eye, he could hike up and over the Clearwater/St. Joe Divide in a single night, in the dead of winter, and be in Avery by sun-up.

He also made a habit of breaking into Forest Service cabins during the winters, eating food from the shelves, warming himself with a fire, and taking an occasional set of binoculars or map. Despite their best efforts, the Forest Service was unable to convict Moreland, and his stature and legend grew in mythical proportions. He became known as the Ridgerunner, a spirit in the night, almost impossible to track, and too keen to catch.

Eventually, Moreland was caught by Forest Service Rangers, locked up, and then sent to a mental institution in Orofino, only one day to escape. No one knows whatever happened to the Ridgerunner, but they say you can still see his footprints high in the Mallard-Larkins, or along the banks of the North Fork on a cold, windswept night. This is a light, and fun book to read if you have the chance.

Reviewed by Brett Haverstick



***Mallard-Larkins  
Favorite Haunt of the Ridgerunner  
and Other Wild Ridgerunners  
Al Poplawsky/Diane Prorak Photo***

**Problems with Wolf Management**  
**Guest Opinion**  
**George Wuerthner**

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The on-going dispute over wolf management in the Rockies illustrates many of the problems associated with state management of large predators. First of all, current state management practices have numerous negative effects on wolves and the ecological integrity of the region. State agencies fail to recognize and value the multiple ways that predators enhance ecological and ecosystem resilience and function. Second, most management actions, namely indiscriminate hunting and predator control actually creates more conflicts with predators. Third, there is an inherent assumption that wildlife like elk and deer are the exclusive “property” of hunters, thus any factor like predation that may reduce huntable numbers of these species is viewed as a negative.

The first problem that influences all other decisions made by state wildlife agencies is their inherent conflict of interest—which is not openly stated, and not acknowledged by state agencies. Even though state agencies typically are vested with managing all wildlife for all citizens by the Public Trust Doctrine, the reality is that most agencies manage wildlife for the benefit of consumptive users like hunters. They certify the notion among many hunters that elk and deer are there for the shooting pleasure of hunters.

There are several reasons for this. State wildlife agencies are largely funded by the sale of hunting licenses and tags. A reduction in the sale of hunting licenses is literally taking money out of the pocket of the agency. If there is a perception of, or real, decline in elk, deer, and other species that are sought by hunters whether

attributable to predators or not, there is a strong desire to reduce predator populations—whether or not this has anything to do with biological and ecological realities. Expecting a bureaucracy with a vested economic interest to produce unbiased and objective management goals is naïve. Another factor is the self-selection of a philosophical bias among wildlife agencies that tend to hire and retain biologists who favor hunting as the primary way to “manage” wildlife.

Beyond that conflict of interest, the second problem with “hunting” (indiscriminate killing) of predators is that it can disrupt social ecology of the animals, which in turn can exacerbate conflicts between humans and wolves. Hunting typically skews predator populations towards a younger overall age structure, and when dealing with wolves, frequently leads to smaller, more discrete packs. Younger animals are less skillful hunters. Younger animals and unstable pack structure also leads to higher levels of migration, with more wolves having to move into new territories where they are unfamiliar with prey migration routes, calving grounds and other vital information—thus they are again more likely to engage in riskier behavior, like attacking livestock.

One can even maintain a relatively high number of predators and still have this effect. For instance, let’s

say there is a hypothetical population of 20 wolves in one geographical area. You could have 20 wolves in a single pack with 15 adults and, say, 5 pups. Such a large pack is likely to be more stable since it can easily defend its territory against other wolves. Also a large pack is more likely to completely consume any prey it kills since it can guard the kill site to prevent other scavengers or even other wolves from adjacent packs from running off with the food. The large number of adults also ensures that there are plenty of skillful hunters to bring back food to sustain the pups.

By contrast, in a hunted population one could still have 20 wolves, but due to the continual loss of



*Howling For Justice, USFWS Photo*

adults and pack instability, this population is more likely to be broken up into smaller packs with fewer adults. So you could have, say, 4 packs, each consisting of two adults and three pups. Just imagine how much more difficult it is for two, likely young, inexperienced adults, to feed the pups. With only one (if one adult stays at the den with pups), or at most two, adults to hunt and bring down dangerous prey like elk, the smaller packs have a more difficult time providing for their pups. Moreover, with just two adults, defending a territory against intrusions by other wolves is more problematic, thus the smaller pack is more likely to occupy less desirable habitat. Finally, in this hypothetical situation, we would have a total of 12 pups (as opposed to the 5 in the larger pack) to feed, with far fewer total adults to provide the food. All of these factors stress wolf packs and enhance the chances that they will turn to easily acquired prey, like domestic livestock.

So there is a self-fulfilling mechanism operating whereby state agencies kill wolves on the presumption they will reduce livestock conflicts. When livestock conflicts persist or even increase, they generally respond by increasing the hunting and trapping of wolves, adding even more to the social chaos and stress on wolf packs and wolf social structures, which in turn frequently results in even more livestock depredation. This in turn creates even more public support for additional wolf control and killing.

The third problem with hunting is that the places where conflicts between humans and wolves are most likely, such as suburban backyards and/or private ranchlands, are the least likely places for hunters to hunt. Most hunters tend to seek out game on the larger blocks of public lands. They are not hunting in the backyards of suburbia where, say, a wolf might create a problem by frightening people or capturing Rex the dog. And they usually have minimal access to the larger private ranches where livestock conflicts are most acute. So while hunters might occasionally kill a so-called “problem” animal, they wind up removing many other wolves that may not be in conflict with people at all. Indeed, hunting can even make things worse by removing wolves that avoid livestock and creating an opening for the immigration of new wolves which may not have a strong avoidance for livestock.

Fourth, hunting reduces the well-documented ecological effects of predators upon other wildlife and the landscape. Predators like wolves remove diseased animals—for instance, where wolf predation is highest, there are fewer cases of disease like chronic wasting disease (CWD or the equivalent of Mad Cow Disease). Predators change the habitat use by herbivores like elk, redistributing them from riparian areas to uplands, allowing willows and aspen to rejuvenate stands. Predators can create

more carrion for other species from wolverine to grizzlies. These are only a few of the well-documented positive effects of wolf predation. The problem with hunting is that if you maintain wolf populations at a level where there is no perceived impact upon, say, elk and deer numbers, then you are almost certainly precluding the positive effects that wolves might confer upon wildlife and ecosystem function.

Finally, the widespread assumption that the only way to reduce conflicts with humans is by hunting and predator control, overlooks the fact that there are many non-lethal animal husbandry practices that can reduce and/or even eliminate situations that create human/wolf conflicts. For instance, studies have shown that corralling sheep and cattle at night, along with the use of guard dogs can significantly reduce predator opportunity and losses—up to 90% compared to farms and ranches which do not practice such measures. Other practices, like rapid removal of dead livestock carcasses so that wolves and other predators are not induced to feed on cattle or sheep, can significantly reduce livestock conflicts. Even if predators do not actually feed on the carrion, they may be drawn to the site, which is typically among livestock, thus putting them in close proximity to the animals and making predation more likely.

Thus, practicing good animal husbandry practices can go a long way towards reducing conflicts, and the perceived “need” for predator control or population reduction. Of course, most ranchers/farmers are not going to volunteer to implement such practices because far too long they have been successful in transferring the cost of livestock production to the public, particularly that of proper animal husbandry, reducing predator opportunity by getting the government and hunters to kill predators.



**The Dreaded Collaboration Virus**  
**Guest Opinion**  
**Al Espinosa**

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A recent fishing trip to Cayuse Creek, the crown jewel of the Big Horn-Weitas Roadless Area, invoked both pleasant and painful memories. It had been many years since my last visit. The pleasant part of my return was that it had not changed. It was still a beautiful, untrammled watershed and ecosystem. The painful aspect was recalling the intense internal and external fight to protect it from proposed road construction and timber harvesting.

In the early 1980s, the Clearwater National Forest had decided that they would road and harvest in Cayuse Creek. As their Fisheries Biologist, I had warned the Forest Service that they would be in for a hell of a fight if they did. Of course, they ignored the advice and went ahead with their road and timber surveys. They went as far as staking out the road design. During a road and timber review, we asked the timber beasts—“where’s the wood?” They could only show us young lodgepole pine that no one would buy.

The motivation for the project was to compromise the roadless area. The proposal was met with vociferous public objection at the local, regional, and national levels. After a long fight, this comprehensive objection was successful. The Forest Service scrapped the project and basically allocated Cayuse Creek to the management of amenity resources. The fight was worth it.

Today, Cayuse Creek and similar roadless areas on the Clearwater Forest are once again threatened—this time by a process called collaboration. It is not the fair or ethical type of collaboration. It is a very selective process characterized by cronyism and “Boss Tweed” machinations. It is brought to you by a cohort of enviros that I now call the Lieberman wing of the environmental community. The organizations they represent have flipped. These self-anointed collaborators have joined a group carefully selected by Senator Mike Crapo and his timber minions. They will decide how to manage the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests regardless of your input or desires. Sen. Crapo will then hard-wire the decisions into legislation or a legislative rider. In my opinion, this is tantamount to having Bernie Madoff manage your 401 (k) account. Are you all right with that?

The enviros represent some groups with a proud history of fighting for the right causes. For some self-serving reasons, they have adopted the Neville Chamberlain strategy of collaboration—i.e., develop and accept lousy, expedient compromises. They label the existing processes of public involvement, NEPA, NFMA, and compliance

with the conservation laws as “gridlock.” This convenient rationale flies in the face of our observation that we are a nation of laws. I’m sure that the criminals in our society would like nothing better than to collaborate with the law-enforcement agencies.

The collaborators’ notion of—and-solution-to-“gridlock” has gone viral throughout the West and elsewhere. This virus has established an ugly precedence. If you don’t like a law, find an ethically challenged politician who will help you evade it.

The Forest Service contends that their management decisions will comply with all the appropriate laws despite the crony collaboration. This is laughable and delusional. The agency’s draft Planning Rule that will direct the development of Forest Plans has replaced accountability (hard quantitative standards) with collaboration driven that will “bullet-proof” their decisions.

Recently, the Clearwater Basin Collaborative (CBC) has reached a temporary impasse. Crapo’s collaborators have been unable to agree on allocations, logging mandates, and wilderness designations. It is likely that they will cobble-up some quickie proposal before the election year. In 2012, it is unlikely that anything that mentions wilderness will pass. It will be difficult to derail the dreaded collaboration virus. However, if we raise enough hell in the right venues, we can succeed. If we remain passive and let these collaborators speak for us, it’s adios National Forests!



*Cayuse Creek*  
**FOC File Photo**

**Megaloads Trampling US 95**  
**Guest Opinion**  
**Lynne & Vince Murray**

After facing delays on US 12, Exxon/Imperial Oil found that it could indeed reduce its “irreducible” loads headed for the Alberta Tar Sands, and transport those loads on US 95 from Lewiston through Moscow, to the Interstate 90 interchange in Coeur d’Alene, then east to the Idaho/Montana border.

The shipments started in mid-July with several “mini-megaloads,” each of which has been met by protestors in Moscow. On August 25th, a shipment was met with stiff resistance by a large contingent of protestors, who stopped the load in an act of civil disobedience. Six protestors were arrested and taken to jail that night. Two highway monitors merely following another megaload from Moscow to Coeur d’Alene were arrested on a subsequent night and also jailed. On October 6th, a Critical Mass bike ride was organized with the message “Bikes, Not Bitumen.” The bicyclists accompanied the loads on their transit through Moscow, resulting in the arrest of two bike riders.

The Port of Lewiston has applied to the US Army Corps of Engineers for permission to expand the port “to increase efficiency of the operation, allow berthing of multiple barges, and accommodate loading and unloading of oversized cargo.” It is obvious that US 95 and US 12 are being viewed as industrial corridors for many more loads in the future (Exxon/Imperial Oil already has plans for the shipment of approximately 350 more), despite the fact that these highways were never intended for such large loads. Having to shut down both lanes of the highway for their passage curtails the legitimate uses of the road by ordinary citizens.

Numerous issues have arisen with respect to the loads, among them: the City Council of Moscow “invited” the shipments to come through town despite the overwhelming sentiment expressed against the project at several public meetings and the recommendation of the Moscow Sustainable Environment Committee against allowing transport of the shipments through Moscow; the use of the Idaho State Police and the Moscow Police Department to accompany the loads while on the payroll of Mammoet; potential highway damage that will ultimately be paid for by local taxpayers, etc.

Although Moscow is a small city and far from the places of power, we view our efforts as a complement to those elsewhere to stop the Tar Sands project—the actions on Highway 12, the First Nations in Canada working to stop the Enbridge/Kitimat pipeline, and the Washington, D.C. Keystone XL pipeline protests and arrests. United we stand.



*Megaload Resistance in Moscow Grows*  
 Wild Idaho Rising Tide Photo



*Tar Sands equals climate disaster*  
 Wild Idaho Rising Tide Photo

Believe It or Not  
 You Can “Like” Us On  
**Facebook**  
 Breaking News  
 Community Events  
 Wild Clearwater Pictures



*Wild Clearwater Elk*  
Antone Holmquist Photo

**Moscow Food Co-Op**

We would like to thank the Moscow Food Co-Op for selecting us as the August recipient of their Dime in Time program! Thanks to their generosity, we received a donation that is going towards redesigning our website, which we hope to complete sometime this winter.

**FOC Members**

**Chris Norden and Leontina Hormel**

wish to thank our friends and relatives for obliging the request to celebrate our wedding on Sept. 17 with donations to Friends of the Clearwater instead of what Charles Dickens charmingly refers to as “portable property.”



“We encourage others to consider doing the same, both for weddings, birthdays, or other gift-oriented occasions. We all have enough stuff, more or less; what we need is better protection for the federal public wildlands that are our most valuable collective inheritance and legacy. We believe donating to FOC is a great way to help work toward that goal.”

We are incredibly proud to announce that **George Nickas of Wilderness Watch** is the 2011 recipient of the award plank, a lifetime achievement award given to individuals who have dedicated their careers to protecting wild places and native species in the Northern Rockies.

The award ceremony will be part of our **Annual Meeting & Gathering on Saturday November 5th** at the 1912 Center in Moscow. Please join us to honor George and thank him for three decades of work!



*Congratulations George!*  
Wilderness Watch Photo

**Clean Water, Roadless Logging Returns,  
Megaload Madness, and More**  
by Gary Macfarlane

Friends of the Clearwater has filed 60-day notices of intent to sue on Clean Water Act violations. The first three notices concern operation of dumps and associated facilities on Seven Mile and Lawyer creeks that drain into the Clearwater River. There are several alleged violations of the law contained in the letters. FOC member and Nez Perce Tribal Member Ken Jones has been the catalyst behind these needed actions. Two other violations concern the Red River and Fenn Ranger Stations on the Nez Perce National Forest. The sewage systems for these facilities have had numerous violations of the Clean Water Act, and the Forest Service has been slow to respond. The last concerns the diesel spill on the Lochsa River. The cleanup plan has not included the important measure of digging up the roadbed to recover the diesel seeping into the Lochsa River, as has been done on past spills along the Lochsa and Middle Fork Clearwater on Highway 12. We suspect bureaucratic interference in order for megaloads to use Highway 12 as the real culprit.

The Idaho Roadless Rule, a state concoction that applies a much lower standard of protection to national forests in Idaho than is applied to other national forests, is now showing its true colors. A logging proposal in land adjacent to the Gospel Hump Wilderness has been proposed. Two other projects are either within or bordering on roadless land as well. The Little Slate Creek Project, which could have disastrous impacts on fish, would log roadless land adjacent to the Gospel Hump as well. The Iron Mountain sale near O'Hara Creek would lop off a small finger of roadless land that arguably should be considered as part of the O'Hara roadless area. We are commenting on these proposals. We stand ready to challenge them in their current forms if and when decisions are made.

In a recent ruling revising his earlier injunction, a Montana judge allowed megaloads to move along US Highway 12 and State Highway 200 in Montana. It is unclear yet whether this new ruling applies to all loads or only those Exxon/Mobil loads parked at Lewiston, Idaho. In response, FOC has filed in state court against the Exxon/Mobil loads.

Meanwhile, Nickel Brothers has hauled some megaloads up Highway 12 for a Weyerhaeuser facility in Alberta. Friends of the Clearwater was denied an administrative review of the proposal by the Idaho Transportation Department. This was done in spite of the fact that the Idaho Supreme Court ordered that the administrative review process be followed. So much for government integrity and the rule of law in the Idaho state government.

The travel plans for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests, and the St. Joe Ranger District have yet to be completed. We are expecting the Clearwater plan this fall and the other two in the winter.

Finally, the Forest Service has abandoned its obligation to protect wilderness character in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The agency is approving helicopter use for bridge replacement when the original bridge was built by hand, and for maintenance of small earthen dams on lakes on the east side of the Bitterroot Crest when those small dams were originally built by nonmotorized means. Wilderness Watch and Friends of the Clearwater are exploring the possibility of litigation on some of these proposals.



*Little Slate Creek*  
FOC File Photo



## ***SPOTTED***

This painting is by Heidi Nitze, a member of Friends of the Clearwater, and artist living in New York City. Heidi notes that her painting, *Spotted*, is an allegorical painting. Her beautiful color painting translated well into the black and white format of the Clearwater Defender. The Hawk and Owl Trust, an organization in Great Britain, reprinted this painting a few years ago. In that article, Heidi noted her concern for wildlife habitat and wildlands. She remarked how the rural area in which she was raised was now a housing development.

Heidi Nitze is both a noted artist and conservationist. She received a teaching fellowship at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. She has won awards and has exhibited her work at many galleries, including the prestigious Blue Mountain Gallery in New York. Recent commissioned works include a “Dove of Peace” presented by the UN to Kofi Annan in 2006 and a mixed media wall installation at Columbia University. Her active conservation experience includes serving on the exhibits and education committee for the Wildlife Conservation Society (formerly, the New York Zoological Society).

The Clearwater Defender welcomes submissions of art, poetry, photography and articles.

**Support Friends of the Clearwater at the 3rd Annual Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse**

Friends of the Clearwater was chosen to participate in the third annual 2011 Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse that will be held on Wednesday December 7th from 4-8 pm at Prichard Art Gallery, 414 S Main in conjunction with the Light Up The Night Holiday Parade. Online giving will also take place at [www.agmpalouse.org](http://www.agmpalouse.org) from November 25-December 10.

The mission of the Alternative Giving Market is to provide residents of the Palouse with a meaningful alternative to holiday gift giving and an opportunity to support local non-profits. Come support your community and promote sustainability through celebrating personal charity and community partnerships. This is exactly the kind of giving suggested by FOC board member Chris Norden and FOC member Leontina Hormel, who suggested donations to FOC in lieu of gifts at their recent wedding.

The Market offers holiday shoppers a choice of holiday gifts to honor family and friends while supporting 27 local non-profit organizations in a festive atmosphere. You will be able to choose from a wide range of gifts, starting at \$5. For \$5, you can support FOC's efforts to keep megaloads out of the wild and scenic Middle Fork Clearwater and Lochsa Rivers. For \$10 one can give a gift to support FOC's efforts to protect salmon spawning

streams from development. For example, if you fished with your uncle as a child, he might appreciate FOC's efforts to protect the watershed of the Clearwater Basin. For every donation you make, you will receive a gift card insert with a description of the organization you can send to family and friends.

The Market is held in cooperation with many partners, including the Latah County Community Foundation, the University of Idaho Prichard Gallery, Moscow Buy Local, and Potlatch No. 1 Credit Union.

Holiday entertainment and children's activities will be provided on December 7. Businesses will be open late and the Light up the Night Holiday Parade is a fun holiday event. Support a sustainable and vibrant Moscow by shopping the Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse.

If you can not attend on December 7th you can participate by donating online at the Market's secure website [www.agmpalouse.org](http://www.agmpalouse.org) between November 25th and December 10th. "The Market is an exciting opportunity to give back to our community, to deepen our value of philanthropy and to give thoughtful, meaningful gifts to loved ones. Small gifts can go a long way in touching someone's heart and embody the true spirit of the holidays. The Market experience is a win-win-win; for the gift-giver, gift recipient and our community," says Dianne Daley Laursen, one of the founders of the Market. For more information please contact [agmpalouse@gmail.com](mailto:agmpalouse@gmail.com) or Dianne Daley Laursen at 208-310-1231. [www.agmpalouse.org](http://www.agmpalouse.org)



*Ranger Peak, Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness*

**Chuck Pezeshki Photo**

**Shop Local  
Buy Local  
Give Local.  
See you at the Market!**





*We Want Wilderness Designation For Weitas Creek*  
 FOC File Photo

FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
 FALL 2011

ANNUAL MEETING & GATHERING  
 SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5, 6-10PM  
 AT THE 1912 CENTER  
 412 E. THIRD STREET, MOSCOW  
 POTLUCK, BOARD ELECTIONS,  
 SILENT AUCTION, LIVE MUSIC

SALMON RECOVERY PANEL DISCUSSION  
 THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17, 12-1:30PM  
 LEWIS-CLARK STATE COLLEGE  
 STUDENT UNION BUILDING SOLARIUM  
 PLEASE BRING A LUNCH  
 FREE ADMISSION

AN EVENING WITH GEORGE WUERHNER  
 MONDAY DECEMBER 5, 7-9PM  
 AT THE 1912 CENTER  
 412 E. THIRD STREET, MOSCOW  
 EGGNOG AND COOKIES PROVIDED  
 FREE ADMISSION

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

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