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Spring 2017



Friends of the Bitterroot

28 years of working for a sustainable relationship with the environment

Wolverine in the Bitterroot

For the last three winters Friends of the Bitterroot has teamed up with Defenders of Wildlife, the Bitterroot National Forest (BNF), and about 130 local "citizen scientist" volunteers to participate in an exciting forest carnivore monitoring project: "Wolverine Watchers." Wolverine, fisher, and lynx are the focus of our study in the Bitterroot and Sapphire Mountains. All three are difficult species to collect information on. We know little of their numbers; they're elusive and often live in challenging terrain.

Lynx are currently listed as endangered while wolverine and fisher are potential additions as threatened or endangered; both being under review (see wolverine and fisher articles). Greater information would allow more effective wildlife conservation. This is where the monitoring program comes in. FOB created our own "team," and adopted a canyon site.

Monitoring stations have been set up at 23 locations, 2 of which are managed by Forest Service personnel. Similar monitoring is occurring in the southern Bitterroots by the BNF.

Using stinky "gusto" lures and mouthwatering venison bait as attractants, carnivores (and other curious critters) are drawn into feast or investigate, rubbing against DNA-hair collecting bristle brushes while a remote camera snaps photos.

Under the capable and entertaining guidance of Defender's Kylie Paul and Russ Talmo, we citizen scientists were trained in the monitoring protocol. BNF's wildlife biologist, Dave Lockman, has been a helpful liaison.

Generally, the monitoring station is first set up in late December/early January, with rechecks every 3-4 weeks until spring, when the station is removed.

For FOB's team over the last 3 winters the outings have usually entailed a full day. We either ski, hike, or snowshoe depending on the fickle Bitterroot snowpack and conditions. Supplies like fresh bait, new camera card, more gun brushes, and "gusto" are packed in. We've had -10-degree F and we've had 40 degree temps. Most exciting is checking the camera card for wildlife visitors and looking for nearby tracks. Last winter our site had an assortment: pine martens, a wolverine, and cougar with cubs. In fact our team saw a mountain lion en route to our station. What a thrilling sight!

Other stations have detected interesting species including: wolf, fox, flying squirrels, bobcat, goshawk, Steller's jays and Clark's nutcrackers; moose (!), even red squirrels and mice.



As the camera detects motion many critters we caught "on film" are not just carnivores wishing to dine on an easy meal.

While multiple stations had a visiting wolverine, there was unfortunately no evidence of lynx whatsoever, or any fishers on the Bitterroot. (BNF did get fisher evidence just over the MT/ID divide in the Selway, a traditional stronghold.) The lack of fisher detection is concerning as they have traditionally been trapped here on the Bitterroot, and previous studies—years ago—showed evidence of a small and vulnerable population. Notably, MT is the only state in the lower 48 that still allows fisher trapping.

This monitoring study has been a perfect fit for FOB and our mission. It is science-based, educational, and engages the public. It's fun-in-the-field for our members, giving us an opportunity to enjoy our wildlands in the hope of learning more about some of the Bitterroot's most elusive and special creatures.

Dear Friend of the Bitterroot,

You have not heard from us in quite a while but in reading the articles in this newsletter you will see that we have not been idle. I will not waste words by trying to describe to you what is happening in our country under the Trump administration. I believe you understand it clearly. As terrible as the situation is in which we find ourselves, I think we can be heartened by the uprising of activism that we are seeing across the nation, much of it rising out of the Women's March last January. That activism and resistance must continue over the next four years as we all must do our part at this crucial time in history.

We expect an unprecedented assault on the environment and our public lands and the laws that protect them. It will not be long before policy from Washington DC will make its way to local communities across the country. Friends of the Bitterroot is gearing up for the battle and we will meet head on, every single attempt by the administration and extractive industries to harm our public wildlands and the forests, grasslands, waterways, and wildlife contained within them. This is what we have been doing for 28 years and this is what we will continue to do. While we participate in and are committed to the public process that governs the management of our public lands, we will not hesitate to sue government agencies when they violate the laws of our nation that ensure protection of our environment. We never compromise away our values, the values that we know you share with us.

When we feel deep despair and perceive that things are impossible we have to dig deep and find embers of hope to fan into flame. All over the country – even all over the world – people of conscience and heart are moving and energizing themselves and we count ourselves among them. If you are outraged and have a deep personal conviction for environmental protection then please join us in our work.

An argument can be made for not participating in the 'us versus them' mentality and language that is currently rampant in our country, to find common ground, to be more collaborative and inclusive as we work toward our goals. But we have to face the reality that survival is what is at stake here. We are in for a tough battle ahead and we don't plan on winning any popularity contests in fighting it. As the extractive industries, the politicians that serve them, and the motorized user groups sit at the "collaborative table" and divide up our public lands for their own interests, we find there is no seat at the table for our forests and the wildlife that inhabit them. FOB has a seat at that table. I hope we can continue to count on you as we work hard to ensure that the environment's voice is heard.

Jim

Jim Miller, FOB President

2016 Travel Plan By The Numbers

2246

Driving distance from Hamilton to Atlanta, OR... miles of roads and trails on BNF OPEN to motorized use.

40:1

Hiking versus OHV use as a primary Forest activity (2009 visitor use data).

543,840

Acres open to snowmobiles.

30

Miles of user-created motorized trails "grandfathered" and now open on new Travel Map.

36

% of BNF visitors whose primary activity is HIKING

0.9

% of BNF visitors whose primary activity is OHV use.

6.6 and 2

% of BNF visitors whose primary activities are horseback riding and biking, respectively

1976

Year of last major update of BNF Travel Plan.

"Too Many to Count"

Miles of quiet recreation trails no longer maintained or open since 1976.

"... only the enthusiasm of people can make it work: an enlightened and involved public stands as the hope between the remaining parcels of wilderness and oblivion"

- Michael Frome, *Battle for the Wilderness*, 1974

The Bitterroot National Forest Travel Management Plan analyzed and now regulates both summer and over-snow motorized/mechanical transport uses (including bicycles) forest-wide. Finally released on May 11, 2016, it revised the previous forest-wide Travel Plan with NEPA analysis from 1976, when ATVs were 3-wheelers unsafe at any speed, snowmobiles were way clunky and mountain bikes were unheard of.

Unfortunately, the Travel Plan public process did not begin with resource capability sideboards that would limit recreation to fit the capabilities and limitations of wildlife, water and land. Thus, 'us- versus- them' user group conflict became the theme of public debate instead of protection of the ecosystem from undue damage from inappropriate use. The preface to FOB's comments on the Bitterroot National Forest Travel Management Plan DEIS describes a context for our views:

"First and foremost, we reiterate from previous comments, we believe this travel planning process is fundamentally flawed because it fails to defer human recreation 'wants' to the vital needs of resident and migrating wildlife. Recreation is a fun pastime, but its impacts can jeopardize wildlife habitat, the lives of individuals or groups of wildlife as well as the very existence of a species. FOB agrees with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MTFWP), "[We] are not opposed to responsible motorized use where it does not compromise natural resources and wildlife habitat..." (PF WILD-020) Needs of wildlife should come first and then accommodation of motorized recreation.

The Bitterroot National Forest (BNF) is a very rare and special place due to the presence of world class wildlife species. For example, lynx, wolverine, fisher, mountain goats and grizzly bears are known to occupy or have recently occupied areas in the BNF, especially the Sapphire Range. These species are all adversely affected by motorized recreation. Winter motorized recreation can have an especially adverse impact because of the low energy budget of wildlife and the difficulties of being displaced from limited habitat isolated by deep snow at that time. Viability of these species is dependent on core and connecting wildland habitat. Population levels we see today are directly related to today's level and quality of core and connected wildland habitat. These species are in decline in the BNF and the larger world because the quantity and quality of wildland is continually being compromised." (continued, page 6)



check out our new website:

www.FriendsofTheBitterroot.net

The GOOD

- Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and Recommended Wilderness Areas (RWA) are afforded more protection and solitude with motorized uses prohibited.
- To comply with the intent of the Wilderness Study Act bikes are also prohibited in WSAs and RWAs.
- Motorized use is allowed ONLY on routes designated as open (per Motorized Vehicle Use Map).
- Stoney Mt Roadless Area is now closed to motorized use.

The Bad

- Wheeled, motorized access to dispersed camping along roads is allowed 300 feet to either side of routes—a recipe for resource damage, laziness, and abuse.
- 10 miles of new ATV trails are added.

The Ugly

- Two wild roadless areas of 175,000 acres are sacrificed as motorized play zones (Allan Mt and Sleeping Child IRAs).
- The Plan legitimizes the 2005 Travel Map's 600+ miles of formerly closed roads as open to ATVs—with inadequate environmental review.

The Bottom Line

- The Travel Plan simplifies where motorized use is allowed and provides safeguards to some of the most treasured roadless lands, BUT it leaves intact an unsustainable Forest transportation system that is ecologically damaging, biased towards motorized use, and in a state of disrepair. There are no "winners" with this travel plan.

FOIA - Freedom of Information Act. Law that allows the full or partial disclosure of previously unreleased information and documents controlled by the US government.

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act. An environmental review process that begins when a federal agency develops a proposal to take a major federal action.

Scoping - Period in which the federal agency and the public collaborate to define the range of issues and possible alternatives to be addressed in the EA (or EIS).

CE - Categorical Exclusion. When a proposed federal action is determined (through environmental analysis) to have no significant effect, thus requiring no further analysis (EA or EIS).

EA - Environmental Assessment. A more detailed analysis performed once a federal agency determines a CE does not apply to a proposed action. The EA determines whether or not the action has a potential to cause significant environmental effects. An EA includes the need for the proposal, alternatives and environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives.

EIS - Environmental Impact Statement. The most detailed analysis that's prepared when a proposed major federal action is determined to significantly affect the environment. Regulatory requirements are more detailed and rigorous than for an EA.

IRA - Inventoried Roadless Area. Areas (minimum of 5,000 acres) identified by government reviews as lands without existing roads that could be suitable for Roadless Area conservation as Wilderness or other protections. They include approximately 60 million acres, mostly in the western US and Alaska. Multiple reviews culminated in Forest Service regulations in 2001 known as the Roadless Rule.

WSA - Wilderness Study Area. Public lands with wilderness characteristics that await action by Congress to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Examples include the Sapphire and Blue Joint WSAs here in the Bitterroot.

ESA - Endangered Species Act. Signed by President Nixon, the ESA is "An Act to provide for the conservation of endangered and threatened species of fish, wildlife, and plants, and for other purposes." It is administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations (NOAA).

Forest Plan vs. Travel Plan - What's the difference? National Forest Plans establish the management direction for the forest, giving strategic guidance for all projects and plans. It describes the desired conditions of the landscape and the suitability of areas for different types of management (e.g. timber harvest or non-motorized recreation). The BNF will be undergoing a Forest Plan revision soon. A Travel Plan designates what roads, trails, or areas are open to motorized and/or non-motorized/mechanized travel. (see travel plan article)



"He's still learnin' how to tell a squirrel from a pine tree." -Floyd

*"He's so *!#!%#&* lazy he can't even get out of his own way." - Floyd*

*"They couldn't track an elephant with a nose bleed through the snow."
- also Floyd*

The term "Deep Ecology" was coined in the 1970's by Arne Naess, a Norwegian philosopher and activist. He believed traditional Western ecological science, focused solely on facts and logic, could not address the growing ethical and ecological issues facing the Earth. To deal with these issues a deeper ecological wisdom was needed.

Broadly speaking, scientific ecology seeks to understand the relationships of biotic and non-biotic components in ecosystems. The "scientist" is detached from the objects of study. The focus is on quantifiable data collected by "experts."

In contrast, Deep Ecology is the belief that we are an involved participant, connected not detached, and part of the Earth. At its core, Deep Ecology asserts that the Earth and all its occupants have a right to live and flourish. It asks the deeper questions of "why" and "how" regarding our relationship to the Earth and thus promotes personal dialogue about the impacts that we, as a connected part of the system, have. It avoids an anthropocentric worldview that the natural world should be conserved purely for human purposes such as extraction, development, and recreation.

It could be said that Deep Ecology runs counter to the dominant Western industrial culture which is based on individualism, materialism, consumption and endless extraction. This dominant culture produces pollutions, species extinction, and alienation from the natural world. Scientific ecology (and other forms of Western science) has clearly shown the damaging consequences of Western industrial culture. Presenting facts and figures about a damaged environment is not enough if the dominant world view continues to be based on consumption and exploitation. Data associated with the decline of fisher or bull trout can be discounted when they interfere with a lifestyle that prioritizes exploitation and materialism. Clearly, if the scientific/legal approach of protecting/honoring the Earth were working, we would not be in the situation we now find ourselves. What is needed is a different world view.

The passionate, often thankless work that individuals and environmental groups do is needed. Their knowledge of ecological sciences and the laws/policies that govern the land is amazing. Their efforts, past and present, have been responsible for many success stories. They hold our government accountable to its own laws. But the environmental crisis will not be overcome with

science and laws. It might be overcome, however, by combining the insights that science offers with a Deep Ecology spiritual activism and a fundamental rethinking of Western consumer culture.

Is it truly enough to collect data on declining species, rising sea levels, or greenhouse gases and then merely report findings without taking actions? We need true meaning and a sense of right and wrong added to Western science. As Aldo Leopold said, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." The science is there, whether its climate change, habitat loss, or even the quality of air we breathe. However, it's often clouded with phrases such as, "The evidence is inconclusive. . ." or "I'm not a scientist..." or "There's room for debate." There are cases when more studies are needed, or when a scientific debate is healthy, but often those phrases are repeated by politicians over and over when the science gets in the way of corporations making money regardless of the toll on society - think cancer related to smoking or climate change deniers. It's time to move past pure science.

What if all of us, scientist or not, began viewing our lives as truly connected to each living and non-living part of the natural world? Imagine how that would influence our buying patterns and lifestyle choices. What if we made a commitment once a week to call or write politicians and land managers, to express our views by not only citing science but by letting them know all species have a right to exist and to be protected? What if we practiced consciously reconnecting with nature on its own terms in addition to studying it? What if phrases like "the Earth is sacred" or "all species have a right to thrive for their own sake" became a normal part of our interactions with each other and our dialogues with people in elected office? What if, during the writing of law or land management policies, we demanded the language clearly states that the well being of all species and the spiritual connection to a place be more important than recreation for humans or extraction practices?

I don't feel that the above "what ifs" are radical. In fact, to me they are the only rational thing to do. Future generations will not care about our quality of life, about how we recycled, whether or not we changed to energy efficient light bulbs, if we were polite, if we believed in non-violent actions, or if we had a reusable tote bag. They are going to care if the Earth they inherit is livable and still has all of its parts.

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. - Aldo Leopold

FOB has been working with many groups over many years to help ensure improvements in travel management on the BNF. Our involvement with the Travel Plan revision public process closely followed the seemingly interminable BNF time-line. Beginning in fall of 2006 we attended numerous community public meetings. Initially, discussions were productive but then became swamped by public rudeness from a few motorized use advocates. FOB in collaboration with other conservation groups reviewed and commented on all the various NEPA documents.

When the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was released in 2015 we filed a detailed Objection along with our conservation partner WildEarth Guardians. Our Objection resulted in some further analysis and disclosure of impacts but not much substantive improvement to the Record of Decision finally signed on May 11, 2016. There are many bad aspects to the Travel Plan that we strongly objected to, but we decided not to litigate because we felt certain important improvements outweighed the bad.

One big improvement is that roads and trails closed to motorized use do not need to be signed 'closed,' eliminating incentive for vandalism and removal of 'closed' signs. As with hunting regulations, motorized users now need to know the rules for where they are. Motorized Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) provide legally enforceable information.

Another big improvement is the prohibition of motorized and mechanized travel in the Sapphire and Blue Joint Wilderness Study Areas as well as in Bitterroot Recommended Wilderness Areas. That decision was essentially required of the BNF after several recent court rulings upheld and clarified the mandate to maintain 1977 wilderness character to the point that the Forest Service ran out of options.

(see WSA article) Within the SWSA and BJWSA the level of motorized and more recent non-conforming mechanized (bicycle) use, has continued to grow without limit for almost forty years (1977 to 2016). Finally, with the BNF Travel Plan the Forest Service decided to enforce the Act by prohibiting motorized and mechanized vehicle use. Importantly, the BNF recognized that allowing non-conforming uses in WSAs and Recommended Wilderness Areas (RWAs) creates a constituency that will have a strong propensity to oppose recommendation and any subsequent designation as Wilderness.

That observation was soon affirmed when a Bitterroot mountain bike group in alliance with snowmobile and ORV groups filed a Complaint in Federal District Court on 12/28/16 challenging Travel Plan prohibitions in WSAs and RWAs. Despite the many places already available for their use, these motorized and mechanized vehicle users put maximizing their recreational fun options ahead of wildland and wildlife protection.

That court challenge elicited the formation of a coalition represented by Earthjustice attorneys seeking to defend the BNF Travel Plan Decision in court as Intervenors. This broad coalition includes FOB, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers, Missoula Back Country Horsemen, Montana Wilderness Association, Selway-Pintler Wilderness Backcountry Horsemen, WildEarth Guardians, and Winter Wildlands Alliance.

The Travel Plan is in effect now. You can get a 'MVUM' map at any Ranger Station. Citizen forest watchers will be needed to monitor compliance while enjoying our wonder-filled wildlands.



*"I never could see
fartin' around wastin'
gas all hunched up like
a bird dog poopin'."*

-Floyd

"..... to be whole and harmonious, man must also know the music of the beaches and the woods. He must find the thing of which he is only an infinitesimal part and nurture it and love it, if he is to live." - William O. Douglas

Fisher by Larry Campbell

Fisher (*Pekania [Martes] pennanti*) are marten-like members of the weasel family that can grow to about three feet long. Males can weigh up to 12 pounds and females to 8 pounds. The fisher is found only in North America. They live in dense forest. They are mainly nocturnal, but may be active during the day. They travel many miles along ridges in search of prey, seeking shelter in hollow trees, logs, rock crevices, and dens of other animals. Fishers eat snowshoe hares, rabbits, rodents and birds. Interestingly, they are one of the few predators of porcupines. Fishers are good hunters, but also eat insects, nuts, and berries. Mating season is in April. Egg implantation is delayed till February or March of the next year, following which is a 30-day gestation period. Litter size is 1-4 kits. The kits remain with their mother until the fall.

In 1962, 42 fisher from Canada were released into the Bitterroot Mountains amidst a remnant population of native Northern Rockies fisher, which had been trapped to near extinction. Incentive for this translocation was provided by timber companies that wanted the fisher to limit porcupine damage to pine trees.

Threats to fisher include direct mortality from trapping for pelts in some states, including Montana. Trapping mortality includes fisher targeted by trappers as well as fisher caught incidentally in traps targeting other fur bearers. There is a quota, set by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, of five trapped fisher in the Bitterroot Region.

Indirect threats are posed by loss of forest habitat due to logging and road building, which has significantly reduced and fragmented the fisher's range. Roads and other motorized routes degrade fisher habitat due to the access they provide trappers. Also, climate change will increase the frequency of fires throughout the fisher's range, removing the older, cavity-bearing trees they need for denning, thereby reducing habitat effectiveness.

The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms constitutes a threat to the future of fisher. Regulations that govern the management of fisher and their habitat—including the last remaining old-growth forests on federal, state and private lands, plus regulations concerning trapping of fisher and other animals—have clearly been inadequate to prevent the decline of fisher to date, and continue to threaten their future survival. (continued, page 9)



Test Your Ecological

Knowledge!! by Mr. Milner

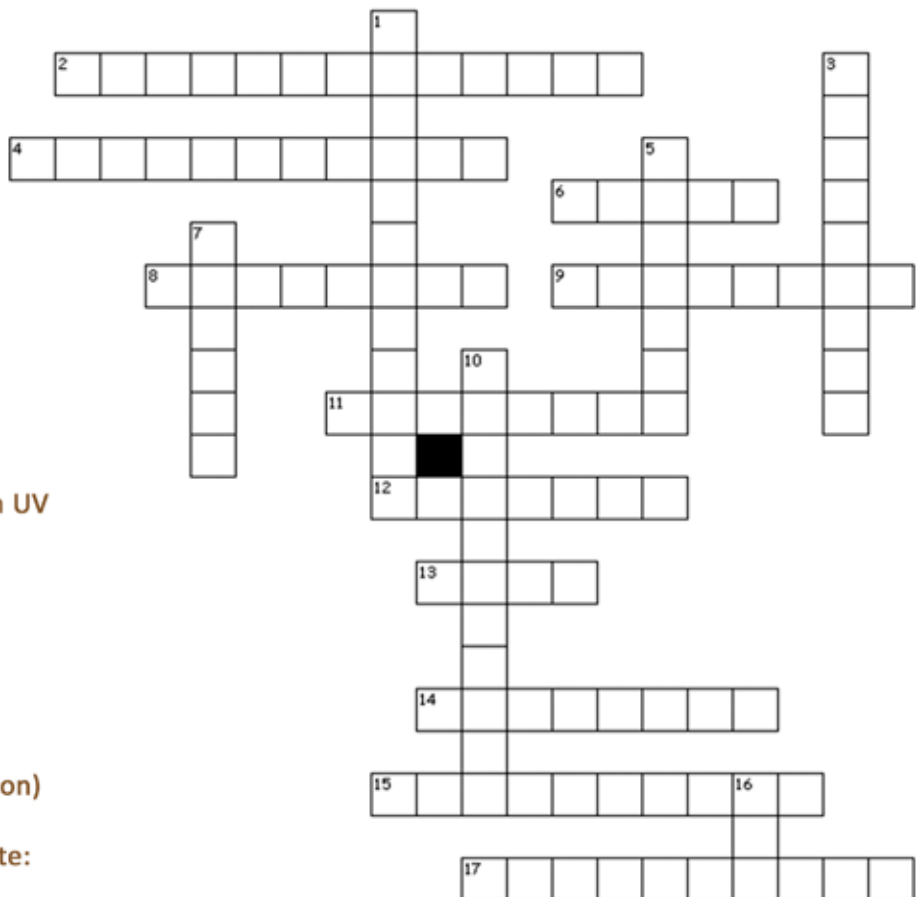
Across

2. A greenhouse gas
4. Layer of atmosphere near Earth
6. Young salmon
8. Author of Wilderness Act
9. Eats plants and animals
11. Area near water
12. Montana State Mammal
13. Hinders fish migrations
14. Connects vital habitats
15. Leading cause of climate change
17. Atmospheric layer of protection from UV

Down

1. Rachel Carson book
3. Threatened fish
5. Pres. who signed Wilderness Act
7. Migrates upstream
10. Leading cause of species loss
16. Law that protects species (abbreviation)

Answers can be found on our new website:
www.FriendsOfTheBitterroot.net



We live on the border of the Westside Timber Project near the Coyote Coulee Trail, and visit the area almost daily to enjoy the solace, the wildlife, and the quiet recreation it provides. Over the years, we have walked over almost every inch of this special place. Imagine our shock in finding out in July, 2015, that the BNF was fast-tracking a commercial timber project in the area that would log more than 2 square miles of mature ponderosa forest and build 7 ½ miles of new logging roads, with much of the work occurring right on top of the popular Coyote Coulee trail.

Although we--adjacent property owners--were not informed of the project until the BNF Open House in July, 2015, Westside "was conceived in 2010 or 2011" (Wayne Hedman, Bitterroot Restoration Committee[BRC]) as a small project of about 1000 acres of non-commercial thinning in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) between Roaring Lion and Camas Creeks. BNF soon greatly expanded the BRC project to include commercial logging on 1,349 acres of mostly mature ponderosa pine forest, non-commercial thinning on 978 acres on mostly immature mixed conifer forest, construction of 3.6 miles of permanent new roads, and 3.8 miles of temporary roads, and gave it the name "Westside Collaborative Vegetation Management Project." Under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), BNF's expanded project required that they go through a collaborative process and produce an Environmental Assessment (EA). Had they agreed to the original BRC project, a categorical exclusion (CE) in the HFRA would have exempted these requirements and the work could have begun almost immediately, and may have been complete before the Roaring Lion fire.

Instead, the planning process proceeded throughout 2013, 2014, and early 2015 (Rohrbach FOIA request). The public was kept in the dark until the open house in July, 2015, despite NEPA and HFRA guidelines that encourage "early and meaningful collaboration" and "maximum transparency in the decision-making process." Twenty-six public comments were received following the open house, with 22 questioning or opposing the "need" for the new roads.

In spite of this opposition, BNF released the Westside scoping documents with no significant changes in August, 2015, and gave the public 30 days to submit written comments. An additional 77 public comments were received, with 52 opposing either the new roads or the impact to the Coyote Coulee Trail, or both. Many also voiced concern that BNF was not using best available science to back up the purpose and need for the project, purported to be the reduction of crown fires, insects, and disease. As the commercial cutting units were almost all comprised of mature p-pine forest, even BNF's own maps showed no potential for active crown fire in them. And the most recent forest surveys showed that bark beetle mortality, a major justification for the project, was declining. Other concerns raised: the likely spread of invasive weeds; impacts to wildlife, soils, water quality, and semi-primitive recreation opportunities; using quiet residential roads for logging trucks; and incomplete analyses of any other alternatives. Although many of these comments were detailed and well researched, when, in March, 2016, the BNF released their EA, Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and Draft Decision with no compromises to the project, it suggested that the USFS had completely disregarded public comment. The FONSI allowed the project to proceed with no further environmental review. However, NEPA and HFRA guidelines state: "An EA should be a concise public document of no more than 10-15 pages.....in most cases, a lengthy EA indicates that an EIS is needed." The Westside EA was 273 pages long!

Only the previous commenters had standing to file formal objections within 30 days, and with a 273-page EA, time was short. Nonetheless, 17 people filed objections. Ironically, most objectors were nearby property owners--the very people the project was supposed to benefit. In addition to the concerns raised during scoping, most objectors also alleged insufficient public collaboration, violating the HFRA. The only "collaborator" appeared to be the BRC, but they never reached consensus! Other new objections included the timber marking and bridge geotechnical work that were already completed prior to the final decision, and to violations of the Forest Plan that required Plan amendments.

A short "Objection Resolution" meeting was held in May, 2016. Despite detailed objections, objectors were limited to 8 minutes each, time for one or two issues. David Schmid, Region 1 Deputy Forester, responded to objectors with a cursory form letter that addressed incompletely only a few of the objections, and also stated: "This letter satisfies the ... Resolution of Objections. No further review of my written response to these objections is available." End of story. Except that then Michele Dieterich sent an angry protest letter to Schmid, Julie King, and the Chief of the Forest Service Tom Tidwell. Shortly thereafter, she was honored with a field trip to the project area with BNF personnel and other concerned residents. On this trip BNF Supervisor King made it clear that workers and contractors were already hired for the project, and that she could "not reopen public comment now." We did ask for, and later received, more detailed objection responses (158 pages worth), but they mostly reiterated the EA that we were objecting to in the first place. Noteworthy were the statements that, although HFRA legally requires "meaningful public involvement" and "collaboration," it gives no definitions, so anything qualifies as collaboration. At the Objection meeting, USFS officials had said they could not define "collaboration." It seems clear that the last thing the USFS wants is the "open and transparent process" described in HFRA; equally clear is that the public has no legal standing to require it.

Finally, attorney David Marquette representing the Rohrbach family filed a lawsuit against the Westside project, specifically litigating the new roads and bridge "required" to commercially log unit 2. (See UPDATE) A few days after filing, the human-caused Roaring Lion fire began on a day of extreme weather--high winds and high temperatures--subsequently burning 16 homes and all the non-commercial thinning units originally endorsed by the BRC in the northern project area. It

also severely burned Commercial harvest unit 1, the Doug-fir forest around the Ward Mountain trailhead. A ground fire occurred throughout unit 2a and in parts of 2b without getting into the crowns. These units are open p-pine forest-- BNF's own maps had earlier showed little potential for crown fire there. Even though these areas experienced a beneficial ground fire, at a BRC post-fire field trip to the area in September, 2016, BNF officials insisted that these areas still needed commercial logging to become "healthy."

Imagine if the FS had stuck with the original BRC proposal for modest thinning in the WUI from Camas Creek to Roaring Lion? Public support and actual collaboration would have been strengthened. The NEPA process would have been sped up immeasurably. In all likelihood, the thinning would have been completed before the Roaring Lion fire. Could this have lessened the consequences of the fire? Maybe, but of course we will never know.

So, now we're going to lose a lot of big pine trees, we're going to lose the pristine feel of the Coyote Coulee Trail, and we and the wildlife are going to lose another roadless refuge free of motor vehicles. In the name of what? The USFS tells us we'll be safer from wildfires, though the science says otherwise (e.g. Bradley et al., 2016). They tell us that bark beetle kill will not be as bad, but once again science says otherwise (e.g. Six et al., 2014). What we certainly will get is more roads in a national forest already crowded with over 2000 miles of them. We will trade shady forests of 100-foot-tall ponderosas with a ground cover of native plants for a hot, open tree plantation with an understory of knapweed and St. John's wort. We will get logging trucks on our residential roads. And we will continue to subsidize the timber industry with our tax dollars. It is enormously discouraging, but maybe we can learn from these losses how to better protect the next areas threatened by exploitation.

It seems clear that the USFS has the legal means to push through any project they--or Pyramid Lumber--want, and that they will not be swayed by reason, science, or even by economics. Unless we're wealthy enough to hire lawyers or buy politicians, the only tool available to us is massive public opposition. Loud public outcry is all that stopped the logging of the Rattlesnake NRA in 2015. Numbers matter! So, please, get involved and let's protect what we have left.

Update...

The Westside Timber Project is moving forward after the BNF announced on 3/10/17 that a settlement was reached with landowners who sued over proposed new [and permanent] road construction bordering their property.

As it stands the road location will be moved west a few hundred feet. The proposed bridge spanning Camas Creek will be built when funding is available. In exchange, the BNF will gain access through private property to harvest timber.

According to District Ranger Winthers the lawsuit did not impede the Westside project, saying "We wouldn't have been able to implement it that quickly even without the lawsuit." A pervasive and fallacious allegation last year was that the homeowner's lawsuit prevented the Project's thinning and was therefore to blame for the severity of the Roaring Lion fire.

According to BNF officials the project will be bid on in June, with road construction likely this summer and logging next winter.

A post-fire logging sale was finished recently near the Ward Mt and Roaring Lion trailheads.

Fisher (continued)

Friends of the Bitterroot joined with Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Clearwater, and the Center for Biological Diversity in January, 2009 to petition the US Fish and Wildlife Service for listing of the Northern Rockies Fisher under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The only significant native fisher population still known to persist in the Northern Rockies is in the Clearwater area of north-central Idaho and the adjacent Bitterroot Mountains in Montana. In 2011 the USFWS found Northern Rockies Fisher to be a "Distinct Population Segment" (DPS) but ruled it was "not warranted for listing."

With significant new information, in 2013 another petition for listing was filed by the above-mentioned petitioners as well as Friends of the Wild Swan and Western Watersheds.

The USFWS is currently conducting a status review of the DPS of native fisher known as Northern Rockies Fisher and plans to issue a Decision in September, 2017 on warranted or not for listing under the ESA.

Very few Northern Rockies fishers have been documented by the Forest Service monitoring, and over two years of the intense citizen science project (described elsewhere in this newsletter) has not documented a fisher. Northern Rockies fisher clearly need the safety net of listing under the ESA.



*About the Forest Service:
"They're sellin' timber for a song
and doin' their own singin'."*

-Floyd

Magic in the Woods

You learn not to take things personally when working with angry youth in "wilderness programs." You learn to view angry outbursts as strong messages from inner injuries. I have worked in wilderness programs in Utah and Montana where 12-17 year olds came, or were sent, when desperate parents had run out of options to keep them safe at home. Usually teens arrived with no warning although some had agreed to come. Kids were often angry, scared, and confused. At base camp, their clothes and belongings were replaced with simple outdoor gear: tarp, food bag, raingear, warm clothes, toothbrush, comb, and not much else.

Groups were separated by gender with about 10 kids to 3 staff. No mirrors, no electronics, no stylish clothes, no contraband. We lived and hiked in the woods, often US Forest service lands, and then the magic would happen. Over weeks and often months, these groups of teens became communities where they challenged each other to get real with themselves and others. They could hold each other accountable in a way that adults could not. They were largely responsible for their group, staff provided guidance and support only when needed. The students would make fire by making their own bow-drill kit, a skill that allowed them to eat hot dinners, or not. They were held accountable to Leave No Trace (LNT) ethics of camping, sometimes spending hours trying to properly take down camp. They learned how to be respectful of and cohabitate with the natural life around them. We were guests in the forest and tried to leave the natural setting intact and as we found it. Staff was continually grateful for the abundance of natural consequences related to firewood gathering, making shelter, learning map and compass, tracking gear, learning to tie secure knots- the quality of effort put into these efforts determined how the day went. All became members of a team who took turns leading. They developed genuine relationships with peers and staff. They worked hard and even had fun which surprised some of them. They participated in ceremonies that celebrated their progress and acknowledges their burdens. They learned to take care of themselves and have pride in their skills. They learned about earning freedom and the responsibility it took to keep it. They would meet with the therapist once a week who was their access to communication from home, and ultimately get ready to have their family come out and meet them. Toward the end of their time in the forest, some programs had a "solo" experience. In a solo each student was given a separate, fixed small area to stay in, checked on by staff, and given writing assignments about their lives. They were basically left alone in the woods for a few days. Free from distractions one can really tap into powerful forces within. For some teens this quiet time was the most challenging part of all. It's hard to hide from yourself in the majesty of nature.

At discharge, some teens would go back home, some would move on to other residential programs, schools, or group homes, and some even would return as staff. I saw young angry, out-of-control people arrive, but solid individuals with leadership ability leave. These kids with dirt from head to toe could really shine with their new-found confidence. Some would return to self-sabotaging lifestyle patterns, which for us as staff, was a discouraging reality. We tried to take solace in the fact that we had "planted seeds" by providing an experience they could tap into later in life.

Each person could make of the experience what they would, but I have not experienced anything as powerful as wilderness programs in helping transform so many young people. The quality of staff and curriculum of the programs contributed to the success, but more than anything I believe it was the setting. Magic really happens out there in the woods that is hard for me to define in words. The kids from the city would experience a world they had never known existed. The power of nature is strong in its ability to heal our wounded hearts if we let it. For me, protecting our wild lands is about preserving a life-line, a connection to something bigger and more powerful than ourselves.

- Jen Knell

Bitterroot National Forest Rock Climbing



Leave No Trace

It's up to you
to know,
follow, and
educate
others on
leave no
trace
climbing
practices.



Climbing Access Depends On You!

Leave No Trace Seven Principles

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors



Bitterroot National Forest
(800) 363-7100 www.fs.fed.gov/bitterroot/
Leave No Trace: <http://lnt.org>

Produced collaboratively by local Bitterroot residents, climbers,
and the Bitterroot National Forest

Several FOB members, along with other local Bitterroot residents and climbers, were integrally involved in developing a Leave No Trace Rock Climbing brochure with the Bitterroot National Forest. Look for them at FS offices and at trailheads.

Friends of the Bitterroot has been an ongoing participant in the Bitterroot Forest Restoration Committee (BRC) since it formed in late 2007. The BRC is one of 4 national forest restoration committees in Montana, the others being the Lolo, Lincoln, and Elkhorn. The BRC is a volunteer, consensus-based collaborative group whose effort is based on 13 ratified restoration principles. Our restoration document defines restoration as: "The intentional process which initiates recovery of an altered ecosystem to a state of ecological integrity."

The BRC is not a resource advisory committee, nor is it managed or convened by the Forest Service (FS). It works in cooperation with the FS, to "ensure diverse and knowledgeable community engagement in the selection, design, and monitoring of restoration projects on the Bitterroot National Forest."

To date, the BRC has been involved in three projects: 3 Saddle Project, Darby Lumber Lands, and most recently the Westside Project.

The 3 Saddle vegetation management project, east of Stevensville, was a moderate-sized forest project. Using the 13 restoration principles and finding "zones of agreement," the BRC supported a handful of the few dozen proposed treatment units. In the end the BRC involvement was limited in scope as the majority of the work proposed was not deemed restoration by the committee as a whole.

Darby Lumber Lands (DLL) was a contradictory mixture of classic restoration—road decommissioning to deal with poorly designed, sediment-causing logging roads, culvert removal, riparian plantings—and a controversial motorized component that called for constructing new ATV and motorcycle trails in an already highly degraded, watershed-impaired, over-cut landscape.

While FOB filed an objection to the project and provided recommendations, we did not pursue litigation. We cited the original intent of the private land purchase by the FS back in the 1990s: To prevent development, ensure public access, and to protect/restore high value elk and bull trout habitat. We outlined the expected deleterious impacts to land, water, and wildlife of a new unsustainable and unenforceable off-road playground. The FS removed one motorized route from its proposal. Meanwhile, Phase 1 of DLL is nearing completion.

The Westside Project, preempted by last summer's human-caused, wind-driven Roaring Lion fire, had its origin within the BRC. While the committee's proposal and involvement were limited to the northern third of the eventual project area (Camas Creek north to Roaring Lion), the FS chose to greatly expand the project southward to Lost Horse. Many adjacent homeowners objected to the project due to proposed [permanent] road and bridge building, impacts on residential access roads and to the popular Coyote-Coulee and Ward Mt recreation trails/areas; private land easement issues; and effects on wildlife including goshawks, elk, and bull trout. The FS is moving ahead with Westside, determining no significant change(s) occurred as a

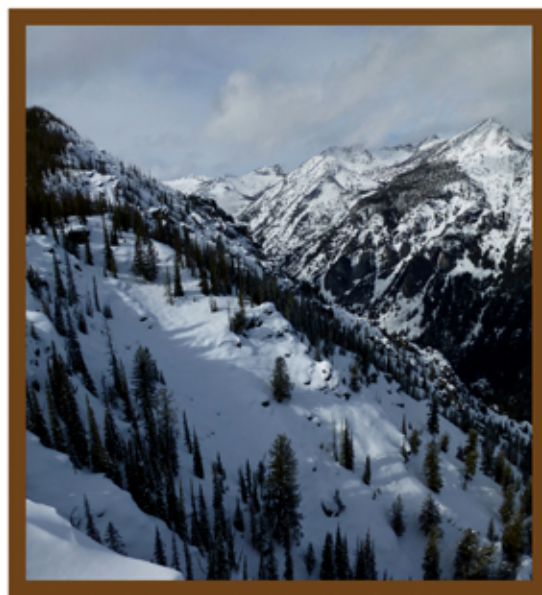
result of the fire and therefore no further analysis is required.

The next sizeable FS project on the horizon that the BRC may consider for restoration potential and committee involvement is "Gold-Butterfly" in the Sapphires. There is no official FS proposal on the table as of yet (April 2017), but it will likely cover 10,000+ acres, stretching from Gold Creek to Willow/Butterfly Creeks.

There is much debate within and outside the BRC as to what restoration is and by what means it can be achieved on the ground. For example: One person may look at a watershed and see restoration as decommissioning a nearby, non-critical road that's choking a cutthroat trout stream with sediment runoff, then doing riparian plantings to stabilize the stream bank to improve fish and bird habitat. Another person may see restoration of the same area to involve utilizing the identical road to commercially log the riparian area in the hope of preventing a future "catastrophic" fire. Which is restoration? Road decommissioning and riparian planting, or commercial logging? Or is it both? What do you envision as "restoration"? This is what the BRC struggles and grapples with.

While the BRC membership normally hovers around a dozen, members have come and gone over the years. In the past there was more balance and diversity on the committee with environmental interests more fairly represented. Time will tell what direction the committee takes.

Membership to the BRC is open to the public, to anyone agreeable to the 13 restoration principles. We meet every 4th Monday at the Hamilton BNF Supervisor's office from 6:30-8:30. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings.



- Wolverine "Gulo gulo" - Gluttonous glutton.
- They are members of the weasel family.
- Adults weigh around 20 to 30 pounds.
- Wolverines have been known to take down moose and fight off grizzly bears.
- Wolverines don't hibernate. Birthing dens are dug 8 to 10 feet down into snowpack near tree line.
- Their paws have 5 toes and are like snowshoes.
- They have special teeth – carnassials, that create a slicing motion when their jaws close, like pruning shears.
- Wolverine territories are huge – 400 square miles for males and 200 square miles for females.
- They live about 10 years.
- They are good swimmers!
- They are much more social, cooperative and affectionate than previously believed.



photo credit: Steve Kroschel / USFWS

- Wolverines have endurance. One GPS-tracked wolverine summited Glacier National Park's tallest peak, in the dead of winter, ascending almost 5000 vertical feet in 90 minutes.

Wolverines need protection!

Some highlights in the history of efforts to gain protection:

- *July 2000, Center for Biological Diversity petitions the US Fish and Wildlife Service for listing under the Endangered Species Act.
- *Dec, 2009, USFWS lists wolverine as "warranted but precluded", meaning they need protection, but the USFWS can't get to it right now.
- *WildEarth Guardians and Center for Biological Diversity challenge the USFWS in court to up the pace on their "warranted but precluded" backlog.
- *2011, USFWS settles suit by committing to 2013 deadline for revisiting analysis of wolverine proposed listing.
- *February 4, 2013, USFWS publishes a proposed rule to list the wolverine occurring in the contiguous United States as threatened.
- *May 2013, Western Environmental Law Center, representing FOB and a large coalition of conservation groups, submit comments regarding proposed rule to list.
- *April 2014, Science panel report released.
- *May 2014, USFWS Region 6 Regional Director memo: dodges science and slips into politics.
- *August 2014, USFWS withdraws proposed listing of wolverine based on above politically motivated memo.
- *October 2014, WEG plaintiffs, including FOB, sue to reinstate science.
- *April 2016, Federal court vacated the withdrawal, ruling the Forest Service improperly ignored science and violated the Endangered Species Act.
- *November 2016, USFWS reopens comments on 2013 proposed rule to list, initiating a new status review of the North American wolverine, to determine whether this distinct population segment meets the definition of an endangered or threatened species under the Act.
- *Presently, the status of the wolverine under the Act has effectively reverted to that of a proposed species for the purposes of consultation under Section 7 of the Act.



It is not enough to understand the natural world; the point is to defend and preserve it."

- Edward Abbey

photos from Wolverine Watchers project - FOB station

Nine particularly important wildland areas of Montana were established as Wilderness Study Areas by Congress in 1977 by the Montana Wilderness Study Act (S. 393). Senator Lee Metcalf of Stevensville sponsored the Act. The late FOB steering committee member Clif Merritt, of Hamilton, was instrumental in identifying and selecting the nine areas based on their major importance for Wilderness designation, threats to their wilderness attributes, and substantial local support.

In testimony on S. 393, the late Bitterroot wildland advocate Doris Milner referenced salient facts that suggested the need for more Wilderness, including the decline in maximum size and quantity of the large areas (>100,000 acres) at the national level as well as the increasing rate of use of Wilderness areas. She answered opponents question "How much wilderness do we need?" by asking "How do we retain what little pristine remains?" Her answer was that S-393 was a partial solution.

The Act says, "[Montana's WSAs] shall, until Congress determines otherwise, be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture [USFS] so as to maintain their presently existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System." The idea was to protect the wilderness quality of these special places before the incessant press to develop overtook the chance to fully protect them within the Wilderness System.

The Forest Service failed to maintain 1977 "existing wilderness character" as they failed to regulate the explosive increase of motorized recreational vehicle use on many of Montana's WSAs, including here on the Bitterroot National Forest (BNF) in the Blue Joint WSA and especially in the Sapphire WSA. For about twenty years FOB has monitored the Sapphire, Blue Joint and West Pioneer WSAs and documented damage caused by inappropriate and illegal motor vehicle use. In October 1996, FOB filed suit as a co-plaintiff in Montana Wilderness Association v. U.S. Forest Service, Case No. 96-152-M-DWM (D. Mont.), a case challenging the Forest Service's management of Montana's WSAs. After many years in Federal District Court and the Ninth Circuit Court, the case went clear to the US Supreme Court where in 2004 it was, in effect, dismissed without being ruled on. Since that time, several court cases involving failure to maintain wilderness character in specific WSAs have reinforced the clear mandate to maintain wilderness character. One court ruling that reinforced the need to limit levels of motorized use to that in 1977 also noted "Congress did not, however, mandate that motorized recreational levels be maintained.". Finally, in 2016 the BNF Travel Plan prohibited motorized and mechanized vehicles in the SWSA and BJWSA. (see article on Travel Plan page 3)

Blue Joint Wilderness Study Area

The Blue Joint WSA near Painted Rocks Lake is 68,000 acres of prime wildlands, including over 65,000 acres on the Bitterroot NF, contiguous with the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway - Bitterroot Wilderness. Elevations range from 4,900 feet to 8,600 feet. Slopes on over half the area exceed 60%. Whitebark pines, a valuable food source, grow at the higher elevations. The large Blue Joint meadows provide diversity of habitat. This WSA serves as a buffer between the Big Wilderness to the west and development from the east pushing in from the southern end of a fast-growing Bitterroot Valley. The BJWSA provides dependable clean water at the head of the Bitterroot River as well as habitat for wildland species.

Sapphire Wilderness Study Area

FOB believes the Sapphire WSA is one of the most biologically valuable areas in the Bitterroot. It is approximately 98,000 acres in size, about 25 miles long X 5 to 10 miles wide, ranging from 5,000 feet to 9,000 feet in elevation. It contains numerous lakes and large meadows. Adjacent to the Anaconda - Pintler Wilderness, it serves as a critical wildland link in the Sapphire crest regional wildland biological corridor, providing premium value in this age of climate change due to its cooler high elevation secure habitat and north-south orientation, offering a path for migration to the north. The corridor has proven itself. Grizzly bears have wandered back to the Bitterroot along the Sapphires. Whitebark pine on the crest and swaths of huckleberry bushes provide important food sources for bears. A dwindling mountain goat herd and imperiled wolverines live there.

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of our technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."

-- President Lyndon B. Johnson, upon signing The Wilderness Act of 1964

I'm standing atop Tigger Point on this first warm day of spring doing a tick check and mulling over the conversation I just had with Stewart Brandborg. Brandy, as he likes to be called, at 92, has led a full life and has a long history of getting things done in the environmental movement.

Brandy learned his love of nature and commitment to responsible stewardship from his father who was the Bitterroot National Forest supervisor from 1935-'55. Brandy can remember sitting down to dinner with wilderness icon Bob Marshall and forest service legend Gifford Pinchott as a boy. As an adult, Brandy became a master grassroots organizer and worked hard to gain citizen support for the 1964 Wilderness Act resulting in near unanimous passage in Congress. Today, despite his age, he still cares deeply about our public lands and nearly without fail, will work his organizing pitch into conversation. "What are we going to do about it" is his mantra.



Brandy receiving his honorary doctorate from UM

Watching Brandy in action makes me smile. He is warm and looks you straight in the eye. He makes the conversation not about him but about you. He finds out your interests and your passions. He learns your strengths. He is complimentary and makes you feel welcome. Soon, he is inviting you to be a part of something, to come sit and talk with a like-minded group, to figure out "what we are going to do about it."

He tells me it is really simple: we all have worries and dreams. He acknowledges them and then works hard to bring those worriers and dreamers together, generally in living rooms over coffee, to talk, strategize, and motivate each other. He believes strongly in a participatory democracy where everyone gets a voice and the organizer steps back and listens. Together, they act. No one person gets more credit than the other. It's literally how the Wilderness bill was written.

Whether it's FOB or any one of the number of groups forming today, Brandy hopes some "live wires" will carry on the tradition of living room meetings for the purpose of protecting the environment and public lands. He has seen great things come out of those meetings, things that seemed impossible at the time. He is sure, by working together, it can happen again. - Karen Savory

Wilderness Act 50th Anniversary Poster By Monte Dolack

Help support Friends of the Bitterroot and protect public lands

\$25 - signed by Stewart Brandborg, the last surviving architect of the Wilderness Act, FOB co-founder, and longtime steering committee member.

To order visit our website, www.FriendsOfTheBitterroot.net, email us at friendsofthebitterroot.earthlink, or contact us through snail mail.



Image size: 18" x 26", Paper size: 25" x 30"

So Who is Floyd??

Floyd Wood is a longtime FOB member known for his plain talking and uncommon sense of the woods. Born and raised here in the Bitterroot Valley, he rode his horse to school and later worked in the woods as a logger. Now an octogenarian, he's been a thorn in the side of the Forest Service for decades.

If you or your friends are concerned about the present and future management of the Bitterroot National Forest, as well as adjoining national forests, now is the time to become personally involved in our organization. Remember, management activity on the BNF affects all of us. Water, water quality, fisheries, wildlife and scenic values, and recreational opportunities--all are at risk.

In 1986, a group of concerned Ravalli County citizens were highly distressed about the size and pace of the Forest's (BNF) logging and road building program. We formed Friends of the Bitter Root (FOB) in 1988. It was apparent that the long and short term impacts on resources such as watersheds, wildlife, fisheries, soils and scenic values were not being considered. The federal laws and regulations pertaining to projects on the forest were given little or no consideration. At the highest administrative levels the mantra and incessant drum beat was "get out the cut" (1970 - 1990)!

The involvement of FOB--and other events occurring at that time--helped to scale back the enormity of the impact on other resources in that time period. However, it seems that the circle has now swung back not only to "get out the cut," but is accompanied by strong and incessant attacks on the federal laws and regulations. This time, the Forest Service and conservation groups have little or no support in Congress or the White House to stave off the onslaught.

We have a skilled and dedicated group of individuals in the FOB steering committee, well-honed after years of working with the BNF and surrounding national

forests. We know our forest, we know the laws and regulations, and we know how to look for solutions. But we need your help. We need people to be active members who will:

- serve on the Steering Committee
- attend committee meetings
- attend F.S. meetings, scoping sessions, field trips
- take time to chat with local forest officials about different concerns
- let them know we support the agency and want to work with them
- do field monitoring of the proposed and ongoing projects
- document and report abuses

Presently, the mission of the National Forest System is under attack by those who would capitalize on the sale of our natural resources. The exploiters are working with the President, the Congress, our state legislators, and local officials; not only to exploit the resources, but to dismantle the whole concept of public lands for the people.

Get involved. Volunteer. Our public lands need your help!

John Grove is a professional forester who has advocated all his career for sustainable forest practices that protect the water and the land. After 32 years of service with the USFS John retired in 1985. A founding member of Friends of the Bitterroot, John's professional knowledge, enthusiasm, and sage advice has proven to be invaluable over the years. Our hats go off to John and his beautiful wife, Darlene. Thank you both for all that you do!

Action Alert!!!

Gold Butterfly Timber Sale, a 10,500 acre project in the Sapphires between Stevensville and Skalkaho Pass, is being planned now. Public comment will soon be accepted. Visit our website for more information and to get involved.

If this newsletter is in your hands, there's a good chance you value wild places. Friends of the Bitterroot have been protecting those areas for almost 30 years. We are a grassroots organization. We work to raise public awareness, promote science-based forest practices, and yes, we use the court system if needed to protect what's left of wild lands.

If you donate to FOB, your money goes directly to the good fight. We don't have office space, a paid staff, or even glossy calendars.

If you can't afford a cash donation at this time, there are other ways equally important to help--write a letter to the editor, call local, state, or national elected officials, email or call a government land manager, go to a public meeting, or organize a local awareness campaign.

All contributions large or small
are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU!

* all donations are tax deductible

____ \$10 dollars Name _____
____ \$20 dollars Address _____
____ Other City _____ State _____
 Zip Code _____

____ Not able to contribute financially but want to be involved

Phone (optional-for events and alerts only) _____

Email (for action alerts only) _____

Clip this and send to: Friends of the Bitterroot, P.O. Box 442, Hamilton, MT 59840
or visit our website, www.FriendsOfTheBitterroot.net and donate online using PayPal



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In This Issue:

Wolverine Watchers.....	1
President's Message.....	2
New Travel Plan.....	3
Know the Terms.....	4
Deep Ecology.....	5
Fisher and Fun.....	7
Westside Project.....	8
Magic in the Woods.....	10
Restoration Committee....	11
Gulo Gulo.....	12
Wilderness Study Act.....	13
Organize!.....	14
Call to Action.....	15



Saya Schimelpfenig Campbell photo credit: Mckenzie Campbell

"The wild things of this earth are not ours to do with as we please. They have been given to us in trust, and we must account for them to the generations which will come after us and audit our accounts."

- William T. Hornaday