



WILDERNESS WATCHER

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Wilderness Watch Battles to Protect Wolves and Wilderness in Idaho

by Jeff Smith

Just after Christmas, a proposal—to allow the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) to land helicopters in the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness in central Idaho to dart and collar wolves—raised its ugly head again.

The U.S. Forest Service (FS) refused to go along with a similar request when wolves were reintroduced in Idaho in the late 1990s and did so again in 2006 after Wilderness Watch and others raised objections. This time, the agency was “all lawyered up,” as we say in the West, and they were prepared to fight.



Collared wolf by William Campbell, courtesy US Fish & Wildlife Service

On January 10, without an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) and with opponent comments pinched by a two-week period after the holidays, FS regional forester Harv Forsgren gave the state a special use permit for the project to begin on February 22.

The Wilderness Act says, excepting what is “necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area [to protect wilderness] there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.”

Over the 45 years since the Act’s passage, as new leadership in the Forest Service has chosen to give up its traditional ways of doing things—with pack horses and mules literally put out to pasture in most of the country—the legal

argument over these “minimum requirements” has grown more intricate and emotional. There is now a whole lexicon regarding what is and isn’t a “minimum tool.” This was the battlefield on which this current conflict was fought.

Of course, the backdrop also includes what may be the most conservative state in the West and the nation’s most simultaneously loved and hated wild animal. After 15 years of pouting as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents made all the decisions, the state took over management of 856 wolves last May when the feds removed wolves from the endangered species list.

Idaho then instituted the first ever wolf-hunting season last September, selling 26,428 wolf tags at \$11.50 each to residents (\$186 for nonresidents) wanting to kill the “allowable harvest” of 220 wolves. You read that right. More than 120 people bought permits for every hunt-able wolf, with Idaho Governor Butch Otter proudly testifying that he would be first in line to help “cull” the population.

Also, this story concerns the special provisions Congress approved in 1964 when it passed the Wilderness Act. An exception for motorized access was stipulated in the event of that rare instance when a motor vehicle or aircraft was necessary to protect wilderness character. But exceptions seem to breed more exceptions in wilderness, and this new proposal was... no exception. According to regional forester Forsgren and the legal case his lawyers presented in oral arguments February 18 to Chief U.S. District Judge B.

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insights from the President



Several years ago, as a young lawyer in private practice, I received an assignment to help out a conservation group with a legal issue they were having. The National Park Service, it turned out, had decided to conduct motorized van tours through a wilderness area on Cumberland Island, off the coast of Georgia. The group, Wilderness Watch, wanted to challenge that decision.

My initial read in terms of our chances was not overly positive. While the law was on our side, the circumstances were not. The tours were intended to provide public access to a historic church

on the island, along a road that was itself deemed historic. Even more, a number of major environmental groups, historic preservation groups, many of the island residents, and even the Director of the Park Service himself, had agreed to the tours in writing.

But Wilderness Watch wouldn't give up. They didn't just think that the tours were unlawful. They thought that the tours were wrong. It was as much an ethical objection that was causing them to stand up and say no, enough. For me, it was easy enough to see what the law said: subject only to narrow exceptions, the Wilderness Act banned motor vehicles in wilderness. The far greater challenge, though, was coming to appreciate why—why it was important to have places set aside where the motors, the roads, the gadgets, the structures, stopped, where nature was left to its own free will and humans to their own legs and wits to explore it.

After three hard-fought years of litigation, a federal appellate court agreed. And I, after the education of a lifetime, was hooked.

Since then, my respect for the organization—its staff, board, members, and funders—has only increased. On a minimal budget from a modest office in Missoula (one where heat and an impermeable roof can on some days be a luxury), Wilderness Watch has established itself as the leading national conservation organization on wilderness stewardship. The importance of this cannot be underestimated. In an era where the expedience of political compromise rules the day, Wilderness Watch stands its ground, committed to ensuring that the boundary between managed lands and wilderness lands is not blurred.

But while there is good reason to take pride in the organization, much work remains. Today the National Wilderness Preservation System is under the near constant pressure of increased motorization and mechanization, impacts from overuse and over-commercialization, and manipulation of landscapes and wildlife, all to satisfy our own vision of a wild place, rather than the unmodified, untrammled condition that the law requires. While we are fortunate to have a good law on the books, the reasons and ethics behind that law are being forgotten, and in the process, we are losing the true character of wilderness. The law, by itself, is not enough.

A year ago, in his inaugural address, President Obama called for a “new era of responsibility,” a return to hard work, honesty, courage, and patriotism. Referring to our common humanity, he described our security as emanating from “the tempering qualities of humility and restraint.”

In large measure, these words well articulate the current challenges and opportunities in preserving the wilderness system. It is incumbent upon us—all of us—to return to the roots of why we need wilderness in the first instance, to roll up our sleeves and get to work, to give and do whatever we can, and to inspire others to do the same. The country's last great wild places are at stake. If we lose them, if we are left with nothing beyond the managed places, those engineered by the hand of humankind, we will have lost a bit of ourselves, and our freedoms, along with it.

Please join Wilderness Watch in helping to ensure that this is never the case. 🌿
—Jon Dettmann



The Wilderness Watcher is the quarterly newsletter of Wilderness Watch, America's leading conservation organization dedicated solely to protecting the lands and waters in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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On the Watch

Sandia Mountains Wilderness, NM



Photo courtesy of the Forest Service

Wilderness Watch's suggested approach to dealing with "hazard" trees in the Sandia Mountain Wilderness in New Mexico has been adopted by the Forest Service (FS).

We reported in our April 2009 *Watcher* that the FS was proposing to use chainsaws to cut down insect and disease-killed trees in the Sandia Mountain Wilderness, claiming falling and downed trees threaten visitor safety. The agency decided to drop its plan to log along 80 miles of trails there and is instead using news releases and trailhead signage along with a revised trails brochure and Forest website to inform the public about potential hazards.

Gaylord Nelson Wilderness, WI



Photo by National Park Service

The Gaylord Nelson Wilderness covers 80 percent of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Wisconsin and at 33,500 acres is the state's largest. The islands have cliffs, sea caves, and some of the most pristine beaches in the Great Lakes region. **Wilderness Watch submitted comments on the Apostle Islands Draft General Management Plan and Wilderness Plan emphasizing two primary concerns related to preserving wilderness character:**

administrative use of motorized/mechanical equipment and management of historical structures. Our comments also supported many of the excellent concerns expressed by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. Please visit our website to read our comments and view the draft plan: wildernesswatch.org/issues/index.html#ApostleIslands

Southeast Alaska



Wilderness Watch file photo

In January, Wilderness Watch participated in a Forest Service (FS) meeting in Seattle to talk about cruise ships and their impacts to wilderness waters in southeast Alaska. The June

the cruise lines and 20-plus tour companies, seeks to preserve quiet, protect wildlife, maintain clean air, and ensure solitude.

Steve Ulvi represented Wilderness Watch at the meeting. Regarding the agreement's actual impact to date, Ulvi echoed the disappointment felt by most of the small long-time operators in the area, acknowledging, "...there is little hope for better results short of extending USFS jurisdiction over marine waters."

2009 *Watcher* cover story, "What is that Cruise Ship Doing in the Middle of my Solitude," talked about this significant and growing problem, and the voluntary Best Wilderness Management Practices Agreement (with the exception of Glacier Bay Wilderness, the federal government has no jurisdiction over these waters). The agreement, signed by

Steve also noted that keeping certain times of the year for the Arms free of cruise ships could be a great outcome for this agreement. Currently, the only legal ways to limit the industry involve protections for harbor seals and air quality, both of which benefit wilderness and non-industrial users.

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Cabeza Prieta Wilderness, AZ



Photo by Jim Hendrick, courtesy of wilderness.net

Wilderness Watch recently urged the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) not to allow construction of a communication relay tower in the Cabeza Prieta Wilderness (CPW). The U.S.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is proposing construction of a tower within the Wilderness as part of its Secure Border Initiative (SBI) and specifically, the SBI Net Ajo1 Project. The tower would stand 33.5 feet tall, with a 16-foot wide by 14-foot tall solar panel array attached to it. All of the government agencies involved state that if Ajo1 is successful, it is very likely that illegal immigrants and drug smugglers will move further westward—deeper into the Cabeza Prieta—to avoid this section's 10 planned clustered towers comprising the Ajo1 “virtual fence.” In addition to being contrary to the Wilderness Act, the con-

struction of this tower will likely drive away bighorn sheep, which use this area as a traditional lambing ground.

Also at the Cabeza Prieta, we expressed our concern regarding a FWS proposal to expand three guzzlers for Sonoran pronghorn, using helicopters and motorized equipment. In our comments on the plan, we expressed our support for protecting and recovering Sonoran pronghorn but explained that the efforts also need to honor the wilderness. We believe the proposed project, including the construction of the original waters in 2003 and 2005, runs afoul of the Wilderness Act. The Act prohibits structures and installations unless necessary to preserve the area's wilderness character. The Act similarly prohibits the use of motorized equipment, such as helicopters, generators, jackhammers, etc., which are all contemplated as part of this action. Our comments also urged the FWS to look at all of the related pronghorn recovery activities (i.e. irrigating the refuge to grow more forage, construction of other water tanks, proposed translocations, etc.). You can read our comments on our website: wildernesswatch.org/issues/index.html

Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness, CA



Photo by Dave Graber, courtesy of wilderness.net

Wilderness Watch is urging the National Park Service (NPS) to reconsider its plan to poison up to 85 lakes plus numerous streams, seeps, and bogs in the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness in California.

According to the NPS, the project is designed to remove

introduced fish in order to protect the imperiled Mountain Yellow-legged Frog, a worthy goal. Wilderness Watch is advocating that the NPS adopt an alternative approach that doesn't involve poisons, motor vehicles, or other uses anathema to Wilderness or toxic to other lifeforms. Our comments included our concern that “...prioritizing one native species over others to the harm of other native species is not consistent with protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems or wilderness character.” You can download our comments at our website: wildernesswatch.org/issues/index.html#Fish

National Forest Planning Rule

Following the Forest Service's (FS) issuance of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a new planning rule for the national forests, **Wilderness Watch used the opportunity to remind the FS that 20 percent of national forests are designated as Wilderness.** We urged the agency to provide necessary

direction in national forest plans to ensure that the agency is meeting its responsibility to protect and preserve the resource of wilderness on the national forests. Please visit our website to read our comments and the Federal Register Notice: wildernesswatch.org/issues/index.html#Rules

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Mokelumne Wilderness, CA



Photo by Eddie Berry

Wilderness Watch has written to the Forest Service (FS) asking the agency to enforce wilderness regulations and prohibit a private group from maintaining an old cabin in the Mokelumne Wilderness.

In October 2009, FS volunteers removed a door and stove pipe from a former trapper/poacher cabin in the Mokelumne Wilderness, which the FS says has been illegally maintained

for decades by the Monte Wolfe Society. A FS volunteer photographed numerous modern items and trash at the structure, including graffiti, food, pesticide drums, a crude water system with modern piping, dishes, and metal grating over a window. Following the incident, the district ranger was quoted as stating, "I think there is still a dream alive among the Monte Wolfe Foundation that something will be done to maintain this cabin long-term. It ain't gonna happen," but later apologized for the damage and pledged to repair the structure. We asked the FS to end illegal maintenance of the structure and to not make any repairs, instead allowing it to decay as this would best protect the area's wilderness character.

Inyo Mountains Wilderness, CA

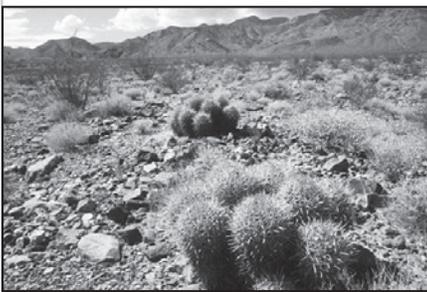


Photo by George Wuerthner, courtesy of wilderness.net

Inquiries from Wilderness Watch's Eastern Sierra Chapter caused the Forest Service (FS) to drop its plan to fence some of the Inyo Mountains Wilderness as part of its Mazourka

Canyon project in California. The FS's Schedule of Proposed Action describes the proposal, "Hazardous shafts

and adits in the Mazourka Canyon area will be fenced and signed to protect OHV users, hikers, and campers." Our Chapter's request for a Minimum Requirements Decision Guide or Analysis led the FS to re-think the plan and remove the Inyo Mountains Wilderness portion from the project. On another positive note, the Forest Service is planning to use packstock rather than motor vehicles to remove solid debris left at the Rex Montis Mine site located in the John Muir Wilderness. Wilderness Watch has been advocating this action for many years.

Yosemite Wilderness, CA

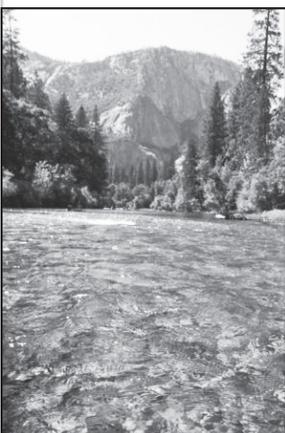


Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

Wilderness Watch recently submitted scoping comments to the National Park Service (NPS) on its Merced River Plan. The NPS released its original plan for the Merced Wild and Scenic River in California in August 2000. Following several lawsuits and litigations, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the

Ninth Circuit decided in March 2008 that the plan needed to be revised. We recommended removing the High Sierra Camps and restoring the sites, or, at a minimum, requiring the camps be used and managed in a manner compatible with the surrounding wilderness. We also recommended limiting stock use and phasing out all commercial developments in and near the Merced River corridor. You can download our comments at: wildernesswatch.org/issues/index.html#Merced

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Kootznoowoo Wilderness, AK



Photo courtesy of wilderness.net

Wilderness Watch is keeping an eye on a proposed airport in the Kootznoowoo Wilderness in Alaska. The Alaska State Department of Transportation is proposing to the Federal Aviation Administration the construction of an airport in the Kootznoowoo

to serve the small town of Angoon on Admiralty Island. While private land outside the Wilderness is available for the airport, some prefer to “save” the private land for future development. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which designated the area as wilderness, allows for consideration of airports, but to build here President Obama would need to make a recommendation to Congress, with both houses supporting the proposal. There is talk of a land exchange if this were to happen. We are opposed to siting the airport in the Wilderness and will work to ensure the Kootznoowoo is protected.

Kofa Wilderness, AZ



Photo by Arizona Game and Fish Department

Despite concern from Wilderness Watch and other conservation groups, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) (in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department), is planning to conduct

water tank maintenance in early April at the High Tank #3 guzzler. Concerns and comments expressed by us and others caused the FWS to delay the Kofa Wilderness project by about three months, but the scheduled date still

falls within the critical bighorn sheep lambing time, which could negatively affect this species, which the tank ostensibly serves. The project involves the use of a helicopter and a gasoline-powered cement mixer. There are also some questions regarding the agency’s notification of the proposal. Wilderness Watch only found out about it after being alerted by a member who saw it posted on Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society’s website—a full week before it was announced to the rest of the public.

In our comments we noted that the proposal violates the FWS’s duty to protect the Kofa’s wilderness character and requires a proper NEPA review given its impacts. You can read our comments on our website: wildernesswatch.org/issues/index.html#HighTank

Katmai Wilderness, AK



Photo by Peter Hamel, courtesy of wilderness.net

Wilderness Watch recently urged the National Park Service (NPS) not to construct a cabin at Swikshak Bay in the Katmai Wilderness in Alaska. Our comments noted that the plan threatens wilderness character

and violates the Wilderness Act’s prohibition on structures in Wilderness, while the environmental assessment (EA)

fails to adequately show this is the minimum requirement for administering the Wilderness. We support the EA’s No Action alternative (stated as environmentally preferable) and suggest the NPS remove the uninhabitable cabin currently at the site. We also support ranger patrols continuing to use temporary tents and electric bear fences. Our letter encouraged NPS to follow its wilderness policy to “accept wilderness on its own unique terms,” and set a good example for visitors. You can download our comments on our website: wildernesswatch.org/issues/index.html#Katmai



Protecting Wolves and Wilderness in Idaho (continued from page 1)

Lynn Winmill of Boise, allowing 20 helicopter landings in the Frank Church was a research project that was (the minimum tool) necessary to “enhance” management and “help” maintain a wilderness.

Wilderness Watch and seven other organizations viewed it differently. On seeing a wolf, the IDFG officials would land their helicopter “to remove doors and get the dart gun ready.” Then they would closely pursue “the target wolf” as low as 20 to 30 feet above the ground until the hunter got a clear shot (half the darts miss), then they would land again for a half hour while personnel located the tranquilized



Aerial wolf darting and capture. Photo by LuRay Parker, courtesy US Fish & Wildlife Service.

wolf, measured it, and put on a collar capable of communicating with a satellite in geostationary orbit 22,000 miles above the earth, which would email data to IDFG officials in Boise.

We told the judge this process was a far cry from the “urgent necessity” courts have cited in past cases to justify motorized intrusion in wilderness. Even the FS Manual calls preserving the wilderness resource “the overriding value” and states that research methods that temporarily infringe on wilderness character may be used only if essential and alternative methods are not available.

We said in the past 12 years federal and tribal wolf managers hadn’t needed helicopters to manage wolves. In fact, they used a non-motorized alternative, trapping, to collar 32 wolves in wilderness (29 in the River of No Return), a fact that FS lawyers understated in their documents. We told the judge that the purpose of the Wilderness Act was to preserve the wilderness character of the area. Landing helicopters and collaring wolves was not necessary to do so and was “directly contrary to that statutory mandate.” At the very least, intrusions like this deserved an EA or EIS as called for by NEPA.

Our request for an immediate injunction to stop the project was denied on February 19, and, as I write this at the end of March, the helicopters have completed their mission with state officials tranquilizing and collaring only four wolves in

the Wilderness. They had hoped to collar 12.

This case severely tested Judge Winmill, who, in his 12-page written decision, carefully framed what was at stake in the plaintiffs’ (Wilderness Watch) language and then switched to the contradicting argument, that helicopters will actually advance the area’s wilderness character. Idaho officials’ assurances that the new information will plug a “data gap” on wolves, documenting “denning sites, movement patterns and distribution, rendezvous sites, numbers of packs and breeding pairs, and other behaviors” is worth up to 20 uses of “machinery as intrusive as a helicopter” in wilderness. He excludes mention that this data could be used, using the Governor’s word, to “cull” wolf numbers.

Judge Winmill almost apologizes. “This is a conundrum,” he writes, involving the “most rare of circumstances” when “the helicopter can be necessary to restoring the wilderness character of a wilderness area.” He begrudgingly accepts this exception as something tacked on to the two-week aerial big game study, proving once again that non-conforming uses tend to proliferate and degrade the essential wildness of the areas.

To end his decision, he uses the I will go on a diet tomorrow after I eat these cakes and cookies argument, warning, “[T]he Court shares plaintiffs’ concerns that this decision could be interpreted wrongly as a stamp of approval on helicopter use. It is not for two reasons... The use of helicopters for any other purpose would be extremely difficult to justify under the Wilderness Act, NEPA, or any categorical exclusion. Second, the next helicopter in the Frank Church

Wilderness will face a daunting review because it will add to the disruption and intrusion of this collaring project... [T]he law is not on [the FS’s] side if they intend to proceed with further helicopter projects in the Frank Church Wilderness.”

Wilderness Watch’s board president, Jonathan Dettmann, a trial attorney for the Minneapolis firm Faegre & Benson, admits Judge Winmill’s refusal to impose a temporary restraining order on the helicopter flights was a loss but says, “The court qualified any precedent by saying that the exception to the Wilderness Act in this specific instance was okay but not a license for the agencies to plan similar activities and research.”

Along with the other plaintiffs, Wilderness Watch has moved for a summary judgment motion, which will bring both sides to Judge Winmill’s courtroom for more testimony later this spring. Wilderness Watch, Western Watersheds, Wolf Recovery Project, and our other co-plaintiffs are represented by attorneys Laurie Rule and Laird Lucas with Advocates for the West. ♪

WOLVES BY THE NUMBERS

Idaho

Number of wolves released in Central Idaho in 1995 and 1996: 35

Number of wolves now: 843

Number of radio-collared wolves: 142

Number of wolves killed in 2009 for attacking livestock: 138

Number of wolves that can be killed by hunters: 220

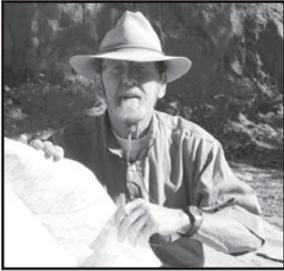
Number of hunting tags sold in 2009: 26,428

Number of permitted wolves killed by hunters since 9/2009: 185

A Letter to my Friends in Wilderness

By George Duffy

Ed. Note: George Duffy, long-time wilderness ranger, steward and activist, was recently diagnosed with Mantle Cell Lymphoma, and told he has but a few months to live. He penned this letter which he generously shared with Wilderness Watch and many of his friends and colleagues.



As my life comes to a close, I feel compelled to express my gratitude to those of you who have journeyed

together with me in wilderness and contributed to my understanding of wilderness and subsequently of myself.

I hope you will indulge me a few moments as I try to share with you what I have learned on our journey together.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 marked a turning point in America's attitude toward wild places. It was an acknowledgement that wild places were not only coming under the plow and the paving machines, but that their loss by such means was accelerating and would soon lead to a society impoverished by the loss of the fundamental relationship between humans and the lands which defined them.

The language of the Act is like few other laws we have enacted. It reads more like poetry than law and evokes an emotional response which invites introspection and envisioning of a future expressive of our concern for restraint and accommodation of other life forms.

This, in contrast to a precise formulaic law, was the genius of the Act's principle author, Howard Zahnizer.

He fixed the concept of wilderness in our minds rather than just in law or on a piece of real estate and compelled us to look for and understand the characteristics of wilderness in our lives as well as in our landscapes.

The Wilderness Act will challenge and enrich scholars, legal experts, wilderness managers, and wilderness advocates for as long as there is wilderness.

We can only hope that the spirit which created this awareness of our place in the

natural order prevails in our thinking.

For, as Joseph Wood Krutch said, "Wilderness is the permanent home of the human spirit."

Upon passage of the Wilderness Act, the Forest Service developed management policy and direction to administer this new National Wilderness Preservation System — Forest Service Manual Section 2320. It consisted of 34 pages. Today it is 55 pages and in the process of being revised.

When you hold that Forest Service Manual Section 2320 in your hands, you hold a precious symbol of the Forest Service's commitment to America's wilderness — one which is being challenged by all manner of argument.

Within the agency, there are those who are impatient with the idea of the minimum tool and craft arguments to justify the use of chain saws, trail machines, jackhammers, helicopters, and other expedients for the sake of convenience or economy.

There are those who are wedded to the idea of mitigating the challenges of wilderness by constructing improvements, identifying and removing hazards, writing detailed guidebooks, and publishing detailed maps.

There are those who feel that the existing definition of wilderness may be inappropriate to an evolving social conscience rooted in technology, urbanization and speed and that management must be modified to reflect those changing social values.

There are those who feel that human intervention in natural processes within wilderness is necessary when those processes don't fit their perceptions of what is natural.

There are those who hold an anthropocentric rather than biocentric view of wilderness and accordingly suggest that accommodation for human use,

rather than preserving an untrammeled wilderness resource, be the paramount consideration when shaping wilderness policy.

Outside the agencies, there are those who, in their eagerness to see more public lands gain the protection of wilderness, have agreed to legislative provisions which compromise the wilderness quality of the very lands they wish to preserve as wilderness.

There are those who think of wilderness as beautiful landscapes or wildlife sanctuaries or recreation areas rather than as places which integrate the enduring physical, biological, and spiritual dynamics of an untrammled part of the earth.

The authors of the Wilderness Act held no such views.

They were keenly aware that there were but few remnants of the landscapes which had shaped the American character and they wanted to ensure that these were preserved in the condition of wilderness which confronted and influenced our early pioneers.

They knew that wilderness had to remain a point of reference in both our natural and cultural histories, an enduring benchmark for our journey through time and space, unchanged by human intervention and subject only to natural forces.

They knew that wilderness was an indispensable part of our humanness and was critical to our understanding our place in the universe.

Today, the American public can be grateful that you have been vigilant and stood shoulder to shoulder with the dedicated group of wilderness advocates both within and outside the public land management agencies to assure that these challenges to wilderness are being resolved in favor of the philosophy so well articulated in the Wilderness Act.

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You are the stewards of America's wilderness and I want to speak to you of stewardship.

Webster's Dictionary defines a steward as: "One called to exercise responsible care over the possessions entrusted to him (her)" and "one who manages another's property."

I am extremely grateful to you for having chosen to be stewards of these lands. You have assumed a sacred trust, to be executed with reverence, humility, and a profound sense of responsibility.

You are not engaged in a business or delivering a product or providing a service or producing a commodity.

You are engaged in no less than preserving the nation's precious remaining repositories of wildness and guarding the permanent home of our human spirit.

Over the years, I have watched as the growth and complexity of the National Wilderness Preservation System have presented you with new stewardship challenges.

You have met those challenges with care and deliberation and resolved them with uncanny respect for the language and intent of the Wilderness Act.

Today, you can be proud that since the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, which designated 9 million acres of Forest Service land as wilderness, the people of the United States have respected your stewardship and repeatedly petitioned the Congress to entrust to you the care of more wilderness areas. Their efforts have placed more than 109 million acres in your care.

You can be proud that the federal land management agencies have created the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center to provide training in wilderness philosophy and wilderness stewardship for federal employees.

You can be proud that the federal land management agencies have created the Aldo Leopold National Wilderness Research Center to conduct social and biological research to support and improve wilderness stewardship.

And you can be proud of your role in preserving that "enduring resource of wilderness" envisioned by the authors of the Wilderness Act.

As you enter another year of wilderness stewardship, please be as caring of yourselves as you are for wilderness.

Take the time to open yourselves fully to the dynamics of wild landscapes and their affects on your mind, body and spirit. Share your passions with your colleagues and the earth. Become fully alive.

These days you share with wildness are gifts you will treasure forever.

My fondest memories are of those times when nature's influences were most keenly felt:

Being picked up by a gusty ridge top wind and pitched through the air like a rag doll.

Huddled on the lee of a rocky summit during a storm and feeling hypothermia trying to rob me of my abilities.

Being carried along in the tumbling whiteness of an avalanche.

Walking out of the snow and ice of high mountains and again smelling the green of the earth.

Lying in a sunny meadow and sensing that all the spirits there were filling my being with strengths unknown and unknowable.

Sensing the unseen presence of the others in the landscape.

Feeling a timeless wisdom trying to order my thoughts to wholeness.

For most of us, our connection with wilderness is commonly understood to be primarily rooted in the cultural and aesthetic responses which evolved from the experiences of early explorers and settlers on the new landscapes of America.

We have recently discovered, however, that the underlying basis for our responses to wilderness goes deeper, much deeper.

Going to the wilderness is going home.

Anthropologists and others have been suggesting for a long time that we are still the wild creatures we were in the Pleistocene. We haven't changed. Only our circumstances have changed.

Paul Shepard, perhaps the most insightful scholar of the history and evolution of human ecology has written: "The discovery of the DNA by Watson and Crick was hailed for its implications for human health and well being. Soon it is expected we will be able to create the perfect banana or the perfect cow and clone it forever. We may soon be able to change the order of genes in our chromosomes to make us taller, thinner, stronger — maybe even less maladapted to our current circumstances."

But more importantly, the mapping of the human genome confirmed that, genetically, we are still wild Pleistocene creatures.

Finally, an answer as to why we feel so at home in wilderness.

Shepard declared that: "The home of our wildness is both etymologically and biologically wilderness."

Although we may define ourselves in terms of culture and language and so on, it is evident that the context of our being now, as in the past, is wilderness — an environment lacking domestic plants and animals entirely, and to which, one might say, our genes look expectantly for those circumstances which are their optimal ambience."

"The time is coming," he said, "to understand the wilderness in its significance, not as adjunct to the affluent traveler, to an educated, esthetic, appreciative class, or to thinking of nature as a Noah's Ark in all of its forms, but as the social and ecological mold of humanity itself, which is fundamental to our species."

To understand the significance of wilderness, we must take the time to separate culture from biology, learning from instinct, and to search deep

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within for those ancient gifts which truly inform our humanness.

I have but one request of you. Go. Find yourself in the wilderness. Be at home.

Let your genes once again find expression in the world that defined them.

Rejoice in your humanness.

You are a genetic library of gifts informed by centuries of life in wilderness.

Gifts from the experiences of antecedent creatures — ichthyian, reptilian, and mammalian which lie still in your brainstem.

Gifts from the struggles of the naked ape with neither fang nor claw who was able, not only to survive, but to adapt and flourish — simply and elegantly — in wild landscapes.

When we first walk into wilderness, we feel like alien creatures, intruding into the unknown, but if we stay a while, usually about a week, and pay attention to ourselves, those gifts become apparent.

We become aware that our eyes see better. We can pick things out in the landscape more keenly. We can measure distance more accurately, and shape, color, and contrast are vividly apparent.

Our noses discriminate and identify the odors on the wind. The smell of a bighorn is a lot different than that of a bear. There is a marsh upwind.

The sounds we heard on our first day came from a general direction but now our binaural senses are so keen we can almost pinpoint the source and distance of a sound and identify it.

The awkwardness we first felt when moving over broken ground has been replaced by a fluid economical rhythm of movement that seems almost effortless.

Our spine flexes, gathering and releasing energy. Our pelvis tilts, our center of gravity is keenly felt, and we are again those confident primal animals on the landscape.

We sense our relationships with the other creatures with whom we share these landscapes, relationships which reaffirm our humble role as members of the vast community of life.

These are not new skills learned, they are ancient abilities recalled — pulled from the shelves of that genetic library deep within our being.

As we peer into campfire flames, the comfort of thousands of fires, in thousands of caves, over thousands of years, warm us from the inside as well from the outside.

The diminuendo of the Canyon wren and the raucous scolding of the Stellar's jay invite our hearts to sing.

The warmth of the sun and the snap of the cold affirm that we are alive, and vulnerable.

The mountains, the deserts, the storms

and the rivers challenge our cunning and demand our respect.

The vastness of the landscape humbles and fixes us in scale.

As we lie on the earth in the evening, the march of Orion across the heavens fixes us in time.

We are still those Pleistocene creatures — at home and full of the wonder of being.

This is the wildness in our genes, found manifest in a simple, bipedal hominid, surrounded by a peace that transcends time, and in a place we shall always need — wilderness.

Thank you.

George Duffy, Wilderness Ranger (Retired), Mountainair, New Mexico

George was raised on a subsistence farm in the shadow of the Adirondack Mountains in New York State. His early years were spent close to the earth forming a lifelong passion for things wild and free. After service in the Navy, George attended college under the GI Bill and explored majors from engineering to environmental studies, finally leaving Pitzer College after being mentored by Paul Shepard who helped him define the wilderness ethic that would shape his work. George served the U.S. Forest Service from 1986 to 2003, first as a firefighter and then as Wilderness Ranger, and Wilderness Program Manager. Throughout his life he has been an avid mountaineer and mountain rescue team member. George was a member of the first Region 5 Wilderness Excellence Team and later selected as the Region 5 representative on the Chief's National Wilderness Advisory Group. He lives in Mountainair, New Mexico, with his life mate Linda Filippi.



Citizen on the Ground—How Much Damage Are Off-Roaders Doing?

(By Janet Burcham, Walla Walla, WA)

Last summer, while visiting Wildernesses in Washington, I hiked trails where ORVs had illegally trespassed, blatantly crossing wilderness boundaries, and also saw extensive disregard for vehicle closures on national forest lands outside of wilderness.

On the Wenatchee National Forest, I found dirt bike tracks on the trail into the William O. Douglass Wilderness beyond the sign at the trailhead, which clearly stated in bold letters, “No motorized vehicles.”

In the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness, on a very popular trailhead known to be an access point to the wilderness, numerous ORV tracks trespassed. The continuous driving, made recently as well as over a long period of time, had turned the trail into a distinct road. I turned back at approximately one mile in disgust, but the tracks continued beyond that point.

Continued on page 13

Stewart Udall, 1920-2010

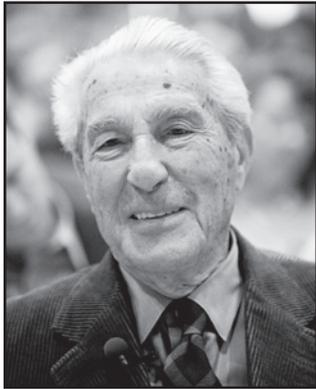


Photo: DanBihn.com

Wilderness Watch mourns the passing of Stewart L. Udall, a great friend to wilderness and wild places. Stewart served for eight years as Secretary of the Interior under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. During his tenure, close to four million acres of new federal lands were acquired. Included were four national parks—Canyonlands (Utah), Redwood (CA), North Cascades (WA), and Guadalupe Mountains (TX), six national monuments, nine national recreation areas, eight national seashores, and 50 national wildlife refuges. Udall helped lead the passage of both the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. He joined the Wilderness Watch Board of Directors in 1995, stating, “It is painfully clear to me... that a private, citizen’s organization is necessary if the spirit and letter of this landmark law is to be observed... I wholeheartedly offer my name and energy to your splendid efforts.” He

served on the board until the early-2000’s and as Counselor until his death. In 2000, Udall participated in the Pinchot Institute for Conservation’s panel that reviewed the wilderness programs of the four federal agencies, and in that role advocated for creation of a National Wilderness Service to promulgate rules and policies for the National Wilderness Preservation System and ensure agency accountability. He was a tireless advocate for reforming the 1872 mining law.

But Stewart’s work extended beyond the realm of conservation, as he spent years trying to right some of the wrongs of what he called “our tragic affair with the atom.” He represented thousands of Native Americans—uranium miners, citizens, and nuclear weapons industry workers—in court, over radiation exposure they suffered from atomic weapons manufacturing and testing. When litigation failed, Udall redirected his efforts, pushing for congressional investigation into the issue, and writing and helping to pass the 1990 Radiation Exposure Safety Act, which compensated thousands of victims who got cancer from their exposure.

As both a public servant and private citizen, Stewart Udall left a great legacy of conservation and citizenship for those who follow. 🌿

MN Member Event

By Kevin Proescholdt

Wilderness Watch is continually seeking ways to engage with our members and new supporters around the country. One way we hope to build upon is by having members and key supporters host a house party or similar gathering in their local communities. On November 19, 2009, the first of these gatherings occurred in Minneapolis, MN.

Minnesota made sense for several reasons. First, wilderness stewardship issues of the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) have been in the news for decades. Second, we have a good base of Wilderness Watch members in the state. Third, we have two active board members who live there. And finally, the law firm of Faegre and Benson in Minneapolis has provided invaluable legal services to us over the years. So,

the Twin Cities seemed a great place to start our on-the-road membership gatherings and fundraisers.

Executive Director George Nickas, Membership and De-

velopment Director Jeff Smith, and Wilderness Watch co-founder and board member, Bill Worf, traveled from Montana for the event. Pete and Karma Goss offered their beautiful home along the Mississippi River parkway in south Minneapolis as the event’s venue, and we hosted our MN members along with other friends and wilderness enthusiasts.

The evening proved to be both great fun and a great success. Members came from as far away as northern Minnesota, and new friends joined us.

During the short formal program, board president Jon Dettmann welcomed the crowd. Bill Worf described the founding of Wilderness Watch. And George Nickas talked about the role and mission of Wilderness Watch in advocating for the proper stewardship of the 110-million-acre National Wilderness Preservation System. All in all, it was a delightful evening. Thanks again to Pete and Karma for their wonderful hospitality in opening their home to us!

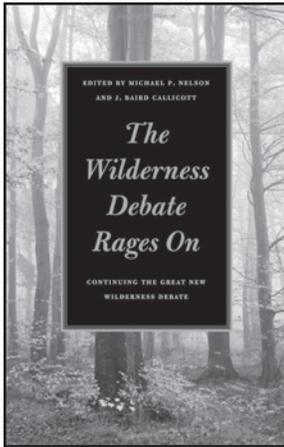
The following day, we also had the chance to visit with two important Wilderness Watch members who couldn’t make the evening event—Bob Binger, a long-time Wilderness Watch supporter with a lifetime interest in exploring wilderness, and Jane Freeman, the former First Lady of MN whose late husband, Orville, had served at one time on Wilderness Watch’s board of directors. Thanks to everyone who made Wilderness Watch’s Minnesota event a great success! 🌿



Jon Dettman welcomes the crowd. Rick Duncan and Bill Worf. Photos by Michael Hagerty.

Review: The Wilderness Debate Rages On Reviewed by Peter Landres

The Wilderness Debate Rages On: Continuing the Great New Wilderness Debate, edited by Michael P. Nelson and J. Baird Callicott. 2008. University of Georgia Press. 723 pages. \$34.95 (paperback). This review is based on a longer review that was published in 2009 in *Ecological Restoration*, Volume 27, pages 364-367.



The Wilderness Debate Rages On is a collection of mostly previously published papers about the meaning, value, and role of wilderness in our society, and continues the discussion that was propelled by the editors' previous book *The Great New Wilderness Debate* published in 1998. The "debate" in both titles is between those who think that the idea of wilderness is an anachronism that is no longer

valid or appropriate in today's world, and those who continue to defend the idea of wilderness.

The book is divided into four major sections. Part One, "The unreceived wilderness idea: the road not taken," offers 13 papers to reinforce idea that wildernesses are important for their ecological value (the "unreceived" idea) and not merely for recreation (the "received" idea). Part Two, "Race, class, culture, and wilderness," offers 8 papers that for the most part criticize the wilderness idea from the perspectives of Native Americans in the United States, and from China, Brazil, and Africa. Part Three, "The wilderness idea roundly criticized and defended...again," offers 11 papers that defend and criticize the wilderness idea, mostly from a philosophical perspective. Part Four, "Thinking through the wilderness idea," offers an eclectic selection of 9 papers that "rethink, remedy, rehabilitate, or move beyond the received wilderness idea" (page 13).

As stated on the back cover, "the book gathers both critiques and defenses of the idea of wilderness from a wide variety of perspectives and voices." The book, however, does not do this. Instead, from the second page of the introduction on, the book seems designed to strengthen the editors' critique of the wilderness idea rather than offering full and fair voice to other views or seeking to forge new insight that advances our understanding of the relationship between wilderness and ourselves.

Despite strong and pervasive criticism of the wilderness idea and name in the Introduction, the editors then state that "We are not necessarily 'for' or 'against' the wilderness idea" and instead frame their criticisms as intellectual inquiry: "We are most certainly 'for'

critical thinking and the clarification of concepts and most certainly 'against' muddled or flawed thinking" (p. 15). The editors, however, do not offer such inquiry. Instead, their selection of papers seems markedly biased—by my tally 30 papers criticize the wilderness idea and 6 papers support it (I couldn't categorize 5 of the papers as either criticizing or supporting). Of the 6 supporting papers, 5 directly defend the idea of wilderness against the criticisms offered in the editors' previous book. Yet the editors dismiss these defenses with little or no explanation, typically with a single sentence. Dave Foreman's defense, for example, is rejected with the dismissive statement that "Sometimes good-old-time-wilderness-religion zealots draw suspect analogies premised upon sophomoric logical fallacies" (p. 2). As a result, the book is more a fusillade against the idea of wilderness and not, as the editors' assert, an intellectual inquiry on the idea of wilderness.

The editors' introduction, their brief descriptions that lead the first 9 papers, and their selection of papers seem intended to keep this debate in "either-or" terms: wilderness is either an idea or a place—but not both, and wilderness is preserved either for recreational or ecological values—but not both. For example, in their brief description preceding Aldo Leopold's paper, "Wilderness as a Land Laboratory," the editors state that Leopold's "justification for wilderness preservation generally moved from more utilitarian arguments focused on the recreational values...to a focus on the value of wilderness for science" (p. 93). In reality, Leopold clearly makes the case that the scientific value of wilderness is important but not at the sake of its recreational value, as implied by the editors. In his typical eloquence, Leopold concludes this essay by writing, "in fact, the boundary between recreation and science, like the boundaries between park and forest, animal and plant, tame and wild, exists only in the imperfections of the human mind" (p. 96). Leopold's inclusiveness is reinforced Julianne Lutz Warren's essay, "Science, Recreation, and Leopold's Quest for a Durable Scale" that discusses how Leopold repeatedly sought to merge the recreational and scientific rationales for preserving wilderness.

The editors may interpret the papers included in their book however they wish. But following from the editors' professed desire for intellectual inquiry, I would expect interpretations based not on select sentences but on overall content. Marilynne Robinson's paper,

Continued on page 13

Review: The Wilderness Debate Rages On (continued from page 12)

“Wilderness,” in the last section of the book provides an extreme example of how the editors reinforce their ideas by drawing only on select sentences. The editors devote more space in the Introduction to discussing Robinson’s paper than most of the other papers, probably based on her statement that “I think we must surrender the idea of wilderness” (p. 13 in the introduction; the full sentence is on p. 570 in her paper), perfectly fitting the editors’ view. In fact, Robinson’s paper is a profound and wide-ranging essay on many of the ills that society places on the environment and people, focusing on the social injustice of weapons production, slavery, and global environmental governance, among others. It appears that she is using the term “wilderness” not in reference to Congressionally designated protected areas, but instead to rural areas of several western US states where military weapons are produced and tested: “Wilderness is where things can be hidden, from foreign enemies, perhaps, but certainly from domestic critics. This effect is enhanced by the fact that wilderness dwellers everywhere are typically rather poor and scattered, not much in the public mind, not significant as voters. Wilderness is where things can be done that would be intolerable in a populous landscape” (p. 564). That the editors ignore this context and instead frame Robinson’s paper only in terms of her rejection of “wilderness” is, at best, disconcerting.

Fortunately, the editors did include several papers that are remarkable for their coherent and novel syntheses. The paper by Jill M. Belsky, “Changing Human Relationships with Nature: Making and Remaking Wilderness Science,” forges common understanding across those who criticize the wilderness idea and those who defend it. Importantly, she crafts this melding within a social and cultural context, and offers five highly useful “consequences” of this integrated perspective for wilderness management and policy. The paper by Wayne Ouderkirk, “On Wilderness and People: A View from Mt. Marcy,” sets a new standard for insight and integration of wilderness as an idea and place, concluding that “we need a wilderness concept that acknowledges both the connections and the differences between wild nature and us. Emphasizing only the differences has given us a dualism alienating us from non-human nature and resulting in environmental destruction. Emphasizing only the connections ignores important differences and undermines the valid reasons for limiting human interference with non-human nature. Only by acknowledging both the differences and connections will we develop an accurate, workable ontology and maintain a livable planet” (p. 454). Last, the paper by Kimberly K. Smith, “What is Africa to Me? Wilderness in Black Thought, 1860—1930,” offers a rich and insight-

ful essay on the contribution of black American thought, philosophy, and psychology to American, and by extension, world conservation.

In summary, I was disappointed that *The Wilderness Debate Rages On* doesn’t offer what I would consider a balanced set of papers that fairly examine the depths and nuances of the debate over the idea of wilderness. For this reason I don’t think this book would be useful for academics or students, and managers will find little of practical use in this collection. Most importantly, the either-or framing of complex issues doesn’t help us forge a clearer or better understanding of ourselves in the context of nature in general and wilderness in particular—or move us to ask better questions about these relationships. In contrast, the papers by Adams, Lutz Warren, and Turner offer a rich historical framing of wilderness, and the papers by Belsky, Ouderkirk, and Smith are gems that deserve to be widely read by anyone interested in understanding our complex and vital relationship to the idea and place of wilderness. 🌀

Review by Peter Landres, ecologist at the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, Rocky Mountain Research Station, USDA Forest Service; email: plandres@fs.fed.us.

Citizen on the Ground (continued from page 10)

It was the same situation at another popular Wenaha-Tucannon wilderness trailhead.

I did not see a single Forest Service (FS) enforcement officer or ranger during any visit, including the busy July 4th holiday. I wrote letters to the regional forester, forest supervisor, and district rangers after each visit. A public affairs person for the regional forester and the forest supervisor responded by letting me know the FS welcomes information about illegal activities on the forests and asking me to provide photos and license plate numbers. Why aren’t FS staff on the ground? Money and effort should be spent on more monitoring and enforcement of existing regulations, including substantial punitive fines.

You may be as shocked as I was to discover the damage caused by the increasing use of ATVs/ORVs on your favorite forest trails and the absence of monitoring and enforcement by the Forest Service. It’s time to become more vocal to arrest what is an unacceptable “use” of our public lands. We cannot comfort ourselves that wilderness will be protected by current regulations, vigilantly enforced by the U.S. Forest Service, and universally respected by everyone. 🌀

Georgia Chapter Update

Reactivated in 2009, the Georgia Chapter is now focused on several wilderness management issues at Cumberland Island National Seashore, which is administered by the National Park Service (NPS). These include removing the Hunt Camp from Wilderness, feral horses and hogs, and pending motorized tours.

HUNT CAMP—Located adjacent to the Plum Orchard Historic District, which is surrounded by the Cumberland Island Wilderness (CIW), the Hunt Camp annually serves six three-day hunts from October through January. The Chapter recently found the Camp to be located inside the Wilderness boundary. Over time the facility has grown from a simple ranger check-in station with campsites, to a hunting resort—with a ranger house, a separate hot shower/restroom facility for hunters, a hanging cooler, and a ranger valet service to bring the kill back to camp. It also serves as a multi-use facility for volunteer groups and even commercial kayak tours from the mainland. Although our position is that the infrastructure must be removed, we are not advocating stopping the basic hunting program. The NPS is considering options to keep it as is and where it is. So much for responsible Wilderness stewardship!

FERAL HORSES AND HOGS—Severe and long term damage to the island's ecosystem by feral cattle, horses, and hogs is well documented. While management efforts to safeguard sea turtle nests from hog depredation have been successful, the effort requires continual control. Although cattle were successfully removed from the island, hogs and horses remain a major problem. The 1984 Management Plan called for removal of horses, an action yet to be undertaken as the NPS seeks to preserve a tourism amenity and avoid making an unpopular decision. The hog population will simply have to continue to be controlled, as their total elimination would be difficult.

MOTORIZED TOURS—In 2004, a last minute legislative "rider" attached to the Omnibus Spending bill dissected the CIW with new vehicle corridors, while mandating five to eight daily NPS vehicle tours on the now excluded routes, to the north end of the island and eastward to the beach. The legislation was ostensibly to provide easier access to the north end "historic district" for those visitors unable (or unwilling) to hike through the Wilderness, but it has provided for resuming a private commercial tour daily traversing the island beach and Wilderness. So much for legislation in the public interest! ❧

Welcome New Board Members



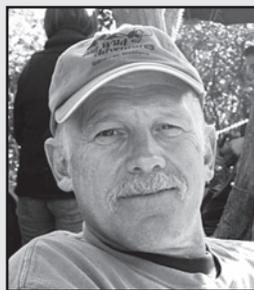
JEFF KANE's devotion to the natural world was nurtured early on by family outings to the Sierra Nevada including joining his uncle, a wilderness ranger, on tours in the John Muir Wilderness. After college, Jeff worked in the San Francisco Bay Area as an environmental engineer cleaning up contaminated industrial sites, while also leading activists on wilderness advocacy for the local

Sierra Club chapter. After completing a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering, he spent five years studying freshwater ecology in the Sierra Nevada, where he also assisted Wilderness Watch and other grassroots conservation groups in a successful lawsuit curbing commercial use of the John Muir and Ansel Adams wildernesses. Buoyed by the rewards of the successful efforts there, Jeff is now pursuing a career in environmental law at the University of Oregon, where he plans to use his scientific expertise and passion for wilderness to work toward improved public lands policies and management.

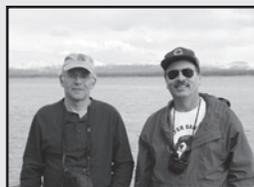


SUSAN MORGAN, PhD, works with the Whatcom County Library System in Maple Falls, Washington, and is a freelance copy editor. In 1968 she began her conservation career as outings coordinator for The Wilderness Society, then became Director of Education, and has subsequently worked on wilderness, wildlands, and public lands conservation for over 40 years. She served as staff with

LightHawk, the New Mexico Environmental Law Center, the Washington Wilderness Coalition, The Wildlands Project, and was most recently communications director for Forest Guardians (now WildEarth Guardians) in New Mexico. Susan is a conservation fellow with The Rewilding Institute.



HOWIE WOLKE is one of the country's most experienced wilderness guides/outfitters, having led hundreds of backpack and canoe trips in wilderness and roadless areas from Alaska to Mexico and beyond. He is one of America's widely acknowledged experts on and advocates for public lands and wilderness, and has authored two books and numerous articles and papers on the values of real wilderness. He and his wife, Marilyn Olsen, run Big Wild Adventures. Howie re-joined the board at the end of last year.



Wilderness Watch is thankful to outgoing board members Kevin Proescholdt and Fran Mauer for their years of dedicated service to the organization and to Wilderness. And, we are grateful for their continued involvement in other capacities. ❧

The Wilderness Legacy

By Jeff Smith, Membership and Development Director



This spring Wilderness Watch joined a coalition of 50 Montana nonprofits to draw attention to long-range donations such as bequests, trusts, endowment gifts, and charitable annuities. Talking to colleagues, helping with a brochure and a 30-second TV spot started me thinking about legacy in the broader sense.

Wilderness Watch takes its inspiration from a long line of leaders stretching back to Thoreau who handed off the baton to John Muir, to Bob Marshall, to Aldo Leopold, to Howard Zahniser, to Ed Abbey, to Michael Frome. Our board of directors and advisors read like a who's who of the muscle of the last 50 years of the wilderness movement.

To block the creeping degradation in our 110-million-acre National Wilderness Preservation System we go the whole way: public comments, inter-agency appeals, federal court, and appeals courts. We speak out with little patience when others promote wilderness "lite" or WINO, wilderness-in-name-only.

We are stirred by the words and actions of those whose passion for wilderness built this incredible investment we call wilderness. We believe in what the Wilderness Act says, and we know the stakes.

Let's just say you can't find equivocation in our vocabulary now or in the future, and your legacy gift—or donation of any kind—makes sure this strong, consistent American voice rings clear and strong. ♪

LOVE THE WILDERNESS? Help Us Keep It Wild!

Yes! I would like to make a contribution and help defend Wilderness!

Here is an extra donation to help protect Wilderness!

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$30 \$ _____

I would like to become a member!

\$30 \$50 \$500 \$15 \$ _____
Regular Contributor Lifetime Living Lightly Other

My check or money order is enclosed.

Please charge my: Visa MasterCard

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Please send information about the **Wilderness Legacy Donor Program.**

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Walkin' Jim Stoltz Benefit for Wilderness



Wilderness Watch, along with our colleagues in the Last Best Place Wildlands Campaign (LBPWC), brought folksinger and backcountry traveler, Walkin' Jim Stoltz, to Missoula, MT on Saturday, March 6.

Stoltz performed his multi-media show, "Forever Wild," after a social hour where wilderness activists mingled with friends,

buying drinks and raffle tickets and enjoying pizza, hors' d'oeuvres, and conversation. His show, performed to a standing-room-only crowd that spilled out the doors, was a mix



Walkin' Jim. A standing-room only crowd.
Photos by Janet Zimmerman.

of his stunning photography, stories, and music, making for an inspiring journey into our nation's last wildlands.

Walkin' Jim has walked more than 28,000 miles through North America's wild country. He's won the Environmental Protection Agency's *Outstanding Achievement Award* for his advocacy of nature and wilderness, is a co-founder of Musicians United to Sustain the Environment, and has authored the book, "Walking with the Wild Wind" and recorded nine CD's. During his show, he told stories about his time in the wild and the people he's met in his 23 years of performing across the country. His photographs included his walks through Nevada deserts, Utah canyon country, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the wild Northern Rockies.

The show raised money for the LBPWC's efforts to expose the many problems with the "Forest Jobs and Recreation Act" (FJRA), which fails to protect wildlands and wilderness in Montana.

All in all, it was a hugely successful and fun event. After seeing and hearing Jim's show, we would agree with an exclamation made by one little girl, "Maybe when I grow up I can go to all of *his* favorite places!"

For information on the LBPWC: testerloggingbilltruths.wordpress.com/. For Wilderness Watch's comments and more information on the FJRA: wildernesswatch.org/issues/congress.html#1470.