



WILDERNESS WATCHER

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Wilderness Milestones of 2014: 50th Anniversary of Wilderness Act, 25th Anniversary of Wilderness Watch

By Kevin Proescholdt

The year 2014 marks two significant milestones in the history of Wilderness in America. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the visionary 1964 Wilderness Act, and this year also marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of Wilderness Watch.

Background of Wilderness Act

By the mid-twentieth century, conservationists had made some important gains for wilderness protection in the United States. The U.S. Forest Service, for example, under the leadership of Bob Marshall and others, had established a system of administratively-designated Wildernesses in the national forests totaling 14 million acres. This system of national forest wildernesses had been designated under the agency's U-Regulations that Marshall had pushed through in 1939. But these



President Johnson signing the Wilderness Act, September 3, 1964.

Photo by Abbie Rowe, courtesy of National Park Service, Harper's Ferry Center, Historic Graphic Collection.

administrative protections were weak and impermanent, and could be changed and were changed at the whim of the next Forest Supervisor on any given national forest. Wilderness advocates realized that stronger wilder-

ness protections in the federal statutes were needed for permanent protection.

Howard Zahniser, the executive secretary and editor at the Wilderness Society, deserves the lion's share of credit for pushing for permanent wilderness protec-

tion in the federal statutes. He had begun working for that organization in 1945 and, with the support of his organization's governing council, in the late 1940s began laying the groundwork for achieving statutory protection for wilderness. Zahniser was a gifted writer, a deep thinker, an indefatigable lobbyist, and a wilderness enthusiast. His efforts were bolstered by old-timers on his

board like Harvey Broome and Olaus Murie, as well as by new recruits like Sigurd F. Olson of Minnesota and Stewart "Brandy" Brandborg from Montana, both of whom joined the governing council in 1956.

It was Zahniser who wrote the first draft of the Wilderness Bill, and he recruited Senator Hubert Humphrey (D-MN) and Rep. John Saylor (R-PA) to introduce the first version of the bill in the U.S. Congress in 1956. It took eight long years, 19 Congressional hearings, and many adjustments to the bill before it finally passed the House and the Senate in 1964.

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...and More



Two Special Anniversaries

The nation marks a special anniversary this year and the celebration deserves dancing with glee! At the very least, we can walk through the forests, deserts, beaches, and prairies that make up our 110 million-acre Wilderness system. On September 3, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law, creating America's National Wilderness Preservation System, the first of its kind in the world.

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

The Wilderness Act is a story of hard work, wisdom, and courage, with the aspiration to protect some of our country's most beautiful and unique landscapes. Congress established the National Wilderness Preservation System "to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States..." Congress has designated more and more acres of Wilderness since setting aside nine million acres in 1964. The greatest expansion came in 1980, when Congress designated 56 million acres in Alaska and the largest Wilderness in the Lower '48, the 2.4 million-acre River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho. Congressional designation as Wilderness provides an area with the highest level of statutory land protection available in the United States.

Wilderness comes in many forms: glaciated peaks, lowland swamps, pristine beaches, eastern forests, wide prairies, vast arctic expanses, and sweeping deserts. Although only about 4.5% of the country's land area, these areas harbor our most sensitive and endangered species, supply clean air and water, and provide solitude and primitive recreation found nowhere else. Only Congress can designate or undesignate federal lands as Wilderness. Unfortunately, simply designating a Wilderness or Wild and Scenic River does not guarantee its protection.

Twenty-five years after the Wilderness Act was signed, a group of citizens became concerned that these lands were in danger from lax attention to the stewardship required to fulfill the intent of the Wilderness Act. Founded in 1989, Wilderness Watch celebrates its 25th anniversary as the only national organization whose sole focus is the preservation and proper stewardship of lands and rivers included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. For 25 years Wilderness Watch has educated the public, and engaged and encouraged citizens and governments to protect these special places. We have joined with land management agencies and our elected officials in guiding and developing laws and regulations that will not harm wilderness. And when necessary, we've challenged wilderness-damaging projects in court. The threats have changed over the years, but the passion of citizens around the country and the skill and experience of Wilderness Watch remain dedicated to the mission of keeping Wilderness wild.

While Wilderness Watch and the country celebrate these great anniversaries, we also look to the future. And we envision a future where informed citizens are the strongest supporters of these special lands. It is the people who might be out this summer in the Wilderness area close to home. It is the people who value the solitude, space for reflection, and challenge of Wilderness. It is the citizens and leaders who will direct and guide the best possible stewardship for continued protection. It is a future that reflects over 50 years of gratification and fulfillment in Wildernesses around the country. Wilderness Watch sees a future where we recognize the intrinsic value of wild lands, as envisioned by the architects of the Wilderness Act.

Wilderness Watch is proud of our accomplishments over the past 25 years and remains committed to protecting our nation's Wilderness forever. 

—Louise Lasley



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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Wilderness Milestones (continued from page 1)

Howard Zahniser was the tireless advocate at every step of the way. Zahniser, who had hired Brandborg in 1960 as his key assistant to help push the bill over the finish line, unfortunately died from heart problems in May of 1964 at the young age of 58. His death came after the final hearing but before the Wilderness Bill became law. President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law at a Rose Garden signing ceremony on September 3rd, and gave the pens he used in signing it to Alice Zahniser (Howard's wife) and Mardy Murie (Olaus' wife) whose husbands had worked so hard for passage but who had died before that landmark day.

The new Wilderness Act created a 9.1 million-acre National Wilderness Preservation System consisting of 54 Forest Service-administered areas. It provided an eloquent definition of Wilderness crafted by Zahniser as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." And, for the first time ever, it provided statutory protections for Wildernesses with the promise that these protections would be permanent: "for the permanent good of the whole people."

Growing the National Wilderness Preservation System

Stewart Brandborg was selected to run the Wilderness Society after Zahniser's death. Part of Brandy's genius centered in how he turned a defeat in the long legislative effort into a brilliant strategy that dramatically grew the wilderness movement and greatly expanded the Wilderness System.

During the legislative struggle, one of the Wilderness Bill's powerful opponents was Rep. Wayne Aspinall (D-CO), who chaired the all-important House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. Aspinall insisted that Congress must pass a new law for every area added to the Wilderness System, a requirement he believed would limit additions to the Wilderness System. But Brandy recognized this legislative loss as a golden opportunity.

After the Wilderness Act passed, Brandy realized that the only way to overcome this hurdle was to build up the wilderness movement across the country, to educate and empower ordinary citizens who loved Wilderness. He be-

gan such an effort, identifying people on the ground across the country, providing training sessions in Washington, DC, and elsewhere to empower them, and turning these newly-minted wilderness activists loose to identify areas to be designated as Wilderness and to pressure their local Congressional delegations to pass wilderness designation bills.

These efforts by Brandy, David Brower of the Sierra Club, and others were ecumenical as well. They didn't care if an



*Howard Zahniser at the family cabin, Adirondack Mountains, NY.
Photo: Ed Zahniser*

activist was a member of the Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Audubon, or unaffiliated. They built the wilderness movement to a greatly expanded size and strength, and their work paid rich dividends as the Wilderness System began to grow in the late 1960s, throughout the 1970s, and on to modern times. From the original 9.1 million acres in 1964, the National Wilderness Preservation System has grown to today's 110 million acres. And all four major federal land management agencies (U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management) today administer Wildernesses in their care.

Though the Wilderness System has grown more than ten-fold since 1964, many deserving wild areas still need to be designated as Wilderness, both in Alaska, which harbors more than one-half of the current system, and in the Lower 48. Tens of millions of acres of deserving wildlands should be given permanent protection and added to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Founding of Wilderness Watch

At the same time that Brandborg began his work after the Wilderness Act passed, the Forest Service assembled a team of agency experts to begin writing the first regulations for implementing the new law. On that team was a Forest Service wilderness enthusiast named Bill Worf.

Worf and his team produced the wilderness regulations and policies, and he stayed on in Washington, DC, to work on Wilderness for the Chief's office. (Bill and Brandy often tangled over wilderness bills in the 1960s; Brandy pushed for many areas and expansive wilderness boundaries, and Bill favored the Forest Service's

Wilderness Milestones (continued from page 3)

“more manageable” boundaries and only highly-deserving undisturbed places he felt met the “purer” definition of Wilderness. They later became fast friends.) Bill eventually returned to his home state of Montana in 1969, where he completed his exemplary Forest Service career as the head of Wilderness for Region 1 in 1981. But even after his retirement, he remained interested in and concerned about Wilderness, and especially with wilderness stewardship and protecting our existing Wildernesses.



Stewart Brandborg and Bill Worf, 2009.

In 1989, Worf and two colleagues became active in a wilderness stewardship issue in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho, where some outfitters had built permanent camps and cached extensive equipment in the Wilderness. Bill knew this violated the Wilderness Act, but could not find either the right Forest Service personnel to stop it or any wilderness conservation organization to get involved, since they were primarily focused on new wilderness designations and were afraid to challenge the politically-connected commercial outfitters.

Bill and his two friends founded Wilderness Watch that year, recruited attorneys and raised money to go to court, and eventually won. It was the first of many Wilderness Watch victories on behalf of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Watch has grown as an organization over the past quarter-century. From a staff of one working out of a living room and tackling a handful of national forest Wilderness issues, Wilderness Watch today has a staff of six officed in three states, members in every state of the nation, and chapters in Alaska, Wyoming, California, and Georgia. Wilderness Watch is recognized today as a major national player in wilderness stewardship and administration, and an expert on the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Wilderness Watch has had many significant accomplishments on behalf of Wilderness in the last 25 years. Here are a few of them:

- Won a lawsuit compelling the U.S. Forest Service to order the “clean-up” of 89 illegal commercial outfit-
- ter camps in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, ID, establishing a national precedent prohibiting caches in Wilderness (these permanent camps contained corrals, tent structures, and piped water systems).
- Blocked the National Park Service’s motorized sightseeing tours through the Cumberland Island Wilderness, GA. The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the motorized van tours violated both the Wilderness Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Helped protect the wilderness character of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, MN, by preventing commercial motorized truck portage operations, increases in motorboat use on certain chains of lakes, and construction of a new snowmobile trail just outside the wilderness border.
- Won a precedent-setting lawsuit filed by Wilderness Watch, High Sierra Hikers Association and Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics that ruled that the then-current level of commercial packstock use resulted in substantial damage to the wilderness character of the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wildernesses in CA.
- Convinced the Forest Service to withdraw its new wilderness management plan for the Mt. Hood, Salmon-Huckleberry, and Hatfield Wildernesses in Oregon that established recreation sacrifice zones in high-use areas. The significance of the victory extends far beyond Mt. Hood; the Mt. Hood plan was intended to be the Forest Service’s pilot test of the agency’s new national “wilderness recreation strategy.”
- Won a precedent-setting lawsuit requiring the removal of three illegal resorts built along the Wild & Scenic Salmon River in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, ID.
- Convinced Congress to initiate two General Accounting Office reports of the Forest Service’s wilderness program. One report uncovered serious misuse of wilderness funds, and the other found many administrative and commercial operations in violation of wilderness law. The investigations led to increased, but more carefully scrutinized, funding for Forest Service wilderness programs, and eventually to the development of the national inter-agency wilderness training and research institutes.
- Led a large-scale public outreach campaign that convinced the Regional Forester to cancel a proposal to establish 129 helicopter landing zones in a dozen Wildernesses on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.
- Blocked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from authorizing additional construction of huge water containment structures for wildlife (“guzzlers”) in the Kofa Wilderness, AZ.
- Prevented federal agencies from degrading wilderness character by replacing or improving historic structures in

Wilderness Milestones continued

Wilderness: replica trail shelters in the Olympic Wilderness, WA; old dams in the Emigrant Wilderness, CA; replica lookout building on Green Mountain in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, WA.

Though Congress later overturned some of these accomplishments, often with legislative “riders” attached to must-pass appropriations bills, these cases’ legal rulings and precedents for interpreting the Wilderness Act remain intact.

For the past quarter-century, Wilderness Watch has stuck to its mission. Wilderness Watch is the only national nonprofit wilderness conservation organization focused on the protection and proper stewardship of our magnificent National Wilderness Preservation System. Wilderness Watch has benefitted the past 25 years from the leadership of wilderness notables and pioneers like Bill Worf, Stewart Brandborg, Michael Frome, Joyce Kelly, Stewart Udall, Orville Freeman, Rod Nash, Howie Wolke, Joe Fontaine, and many more. That leadership continues today with an extremely knowledgeable, experienced, and committed board of directors and staff.

Challenges Ahead

Many challenges remain to passing on “an enduring resource of wilderness” to future generations. Some of the challenges are fairly specific, such as the proliferation of helicopter and other motorized uses, the construction or reconstruction of permanent structures, predator killing and other inappropriate wildlife management practices, damaging livestock grazing, and numerous special provisions in new wilderness designation bills that allow uses incompatible with Wilderness, and which are often replicated and expanded in subsequent wilderness bills. Extensive new manipulations responding to climate change threaten the entire National Wilderness Preservation System.

But the broader challenges include:

- Lack of commitment within federal agencies. Though there are many great wilderness supporters within the four federal agencies that administer Wilderness, many still lack a commitment to Wilderness there, too. Some wilderness administrators allow excessive administrative motor use in Wilderness, particularly helicopter use. Some allow state wildlife and game agencies free rein to conduct wildlife management activities involving helicopters, bulldozers, habitat manipulation, or permanent structures. And many administrators inappropriately allow cultural resource and historic preservation—preserving the works of man—to take precedence over preserving wilderness character.
- Lack of commitment and oversight by Congress. Not since the late Rep. Bruce Vento chaired the key House subcommittee in the late 1980s and early 1990s has Congress exercised adequate and appropriate oversight of the Wilderness System and the agencies that administer it.

Congressional funding for Wilderness also suffers, and Congress seems to have lost much of its institutional memory about and commitment to Wilderness.

- Lack of commitment in the nonprofit wilderness community. Much like the problems Bill Worf and others encountered in the 1980s, much of the conservation community doesn’t take action to keep Wilderness protected today. Many groups, including some of the largest, remain almost entirely focused on adding more areas to the system with little or no attention to the Wildernesses we have. And in some cases, far too often to be sure, these groups have intentionally and actively worked to undermine protections for existing Wildernesses and the foundational principles of the Wilderness Act. For example, the Wilderness Society, once a pillar of Wilderness protection, worked behind the scenes to pass legislation authorizing three illegally built lodges to remain on the Salmon River in the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness, and it endorsed a plan to allow motorized van tours through the Cumberland Island Wilderness. More recently, it organized environmental groups in Washington State to pass new legislation through Congress this year to retain the illegally-built 2009 replica lookout building atop Green Mountain in the Glacier Peak Wilderness. The Pew Foundation’s Campaign for America’s Wilderness supported a provision in the 2009 Omnibus Bill that still threatens the supposedly permanent protection of the Izembek Wilderness in Alaska with construction of a new 11-mile road, shrugging off concerns by stating it is engaged in “the art of legislating. It’s about compromise.” Both of these groups (and others) are advocating legislation that would subject some new Wildernesses to unlimited helicopter use by state fish and game agencies for habitat modification projects, for capturing, collaring, and transplanting wildlife, and for predator control. They are also promoting provisions that would allow ranchers to use ATVs in Wilderness for routine practices like herding livestock, repairing fences, or placing salt blocks. Fortunately, like with the federal bureaucracies, there are many folks within these large national organizations who fight the good fight from within. Even more fortunately, during our 25 years we have had the honor and pleasure of working with many local and regional groups that have become champions of wilderness stewardship, which gives us confidence that better days lie ahead for Wilderness.

Despite these daunting challenges, Wilderness Watch will continue to confront these threats and, with your support, will continue the fight to protect our magnificent National Wilderness Preservation System in the years and decades ahead. We all have much to be thankful for in this important year of wilderness milestones, not the least of which is our steadfast commitment to ensure the Wilderness System’s best days are yet to come. Thanks, as always, for your support! 🌿

On the Watch

Wilderness Wolf Killing Plan in Idaho Dropped for A Year



Photo: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Due to legal pressure applied by Wilderness Watch and other conservation groups, the State of Idaho has decided not to repeat its contract killing of wolves this winter in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness (FC-RONR) in Idaho. WW and others took the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to federal court after the state last winter hired a trapper-hunter to exterminate as many wolves as possible deep within the FC-RONR. The state has announced its plan to kill 60 percent of the wolves in the Middle Fork section of the Wilderness in an effort to artificially inflate populations of elk for hunting by commercial outfitters and recreational hunters. Last winter, the trapper/hunter killed nine wolves before he was pulled from the Wilderness. Ahead of this month's first scheduled court hearing, Idaho announced it would not kill any wolves in the FC-RONR before November 1, 2015. No doubt the killing will resume without continued pressure. Read

more on our blog: wildernesswatch.wordpress.com/2014/02/ 

Airstrip Plan Violates Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness



Wilderness Watch file photo


Wilderness Watch and Friends of the Clearwater have filed a 60-day Notice of Intent (NOI) to sue the U.S. Forest Service (FS) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service over the potential impacts to imperiled bull trout and other rare species from the planned expansion of the Fish Lake Airstrip in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in Idaho. The FS has inappropriately issued a categorical exclusion for the plan. The proposal includes lengthening the airstrip by nearly 400 feet and reconstructing a portion of it, despite the fact that no monitoring (as required by the Forest Plan) has been done to assess use or condition. We are equally concerned about impacts to the area's wilderness character. The Wilderness Act grants federal agencies the authority to allow pre-existing airstrips to remain, but it does not require that they remain or be maintained. The agency needs to revisit this plan by assessing impacts to Wilderness, bull trout, and other rare species, and ensure its actions

conform to the Forest Plan. Read our press release: wildernesswatch.org/pdf/Fish_Lake_News_Release.pdf 

A Wilder Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge?



Photo: Michael Stadelmeier


Wilderness Watch recently commented on the draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey. The 3,660-acre Great Swamp Wilderness, located within the Refuge's boundaries, was the first national wildlife refuge Wilderness, designated in 1968. Located in one of the country's most densely populated regions, it provides important habitat for more than 200 species of migratory birds, in addition to other wildlife. The draft CCP recommends expanding the Wilderness by 161 acres, which we supported in our comments. Read our comments: www.wildernesswatch.org/pdf/WW_Comments_Great_Swamp_CCP.pdf 

National Park Service Studying Isle Royale Wolf Issue



Photo: National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) announced this past spring it will begin a comprehensive planning process to study the issue of Isle Royale's dwindling wolf population, and for now will hold off on "genetically rescuing" the population by transplanting wolves there. Wilderness Watch has been urging the NPS to reject pressure from researchers to "save" the wolves. Wolves established a population on Isle Royale, the largest island in Lake Superior, decades ago after crossing a 14-mile ice bridge from Ontario to the Michigan island. They became part of the world's longest-running and most famous predator-prey study (along with the island's moose). The wolf population has averaged 25, but in 2013 was down to eight plus two or three new pups.

Nearly all of Isle Royale's 134,000 acres is Wilderness, a fact that should guide any future management decisions, including a possible reintroduction. Wilderness Watch is strongly urging the NPS to refrain from reintroducing wolves, and rather let Nature take her course, even if that means the wolf population might become extirpated. Read more on our blog: wildernesswatch.wordpress.com/2013/11/ 

Glacier National Park Fish Plan Raises Concerns

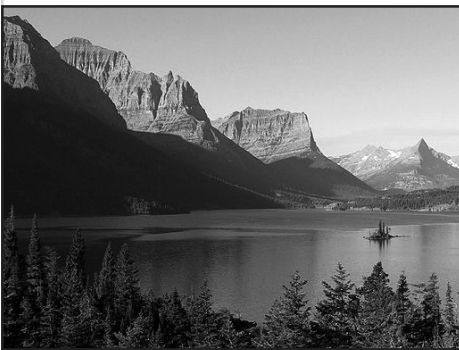


Photo: National Park Service

Wilderness Watch recently urged the National Park Service (NPS) to revisit its proposed actions for removing lake trout from two lakes within recommended wilderness in Glacier National Park in Montana. The proposal includes using motorboats on remote backcountry lakes (with no current motorboat use) 16 weeks of the year, every year into perpetuity, and it calls for introducing bull trout to waters not historically inhabited by the species (while failing to look at the impacts to the aquatic ecosystem). The NPS is also proposing helicopter landings to transport boats and equipment.


While the program may be well-intended since it seeks to protect bull trout by removing a non-native species stocked downstream years ago, the NPS needs to revise its proposal so that it does not harm the area's wilderness character. The NPS needs to complete a full environmental impact statement

given the extensive nature of the proposal. Read our comments: www.wildernesswatch.org/pdf/WW_Comments_Quartz_Lake.pdf 

Supreme Court Declines Drakes Bay Case



Photo: Bill Ingersoll

In the latest skirmish in the battle for Drakes Bay, and in yet another blow to the Drakes Bay Oyster Company, the Supreme Court has declined to take up the company's bid to continue operating at Point Reyes National Seashore in California. Meanwhile, another lawsuit has been filed to try to delay the operation's closure. Kevin Lunny's Drakes Bay Oyster Company was required by law to end its commercial operation in the Phillip Burton Wilderness in Point Reyes once its 40-year lease ended. Rather than honor this agreement, the company has been fighting to continue its operation since former Interior Secretary Salazar announced the lease's end in November 2012. Wilderness Watch has been working with local groups to gain lasting protection for Drakes Estero. We hope this drawn-out battle is near to its close so that the entire Phillip Burton Wilderness can finally be protected as Congress intended more than 40 years ago. 

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Commercial Aquaculture Plan Threatens South Baranof Wilderness



Photo: U.S. Forest Service

Wilderness Watch is concerned about a commercial fishing application to moor structures and store net pans in Crawfish Inlet at the edge of the South Baranof Wilderness in Alaska. The South Baranof Wilderness is an island Wilderness of glaciers, saltwater fjords, hanging valleys, peaks, and coastal forests. We let the Army Corps of Engineers know of our concerns with Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association's application, including impacts to visitors expecting to have a wilderness experience and instead being confronted with a barge, net pens, and associated traffic; impacts to the area's wilderness character; and impacts on plant and wildlife species. If any of the project were to occur in the South Baranof Wilderness, it would violate the Wilderness Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Read our comments: wildernesswatch.org/pdf/WW_Comments_NSRAA_aquaculture_project_S_Baranof_Wilderness.pdf 🌀

Olympic National Park Begins Wilderness Planning



Photo: George Wuerthner

This spring the National Park Service (NPS) released preliminary alternatives for its wilderness stewardship plan for Olympic National Park in Washington. A draft EIS (environmental impact statement) will be prepared soon for public comment.

There are some good elements to the preliminary alternatives. Unlike in the past, the NPS is not planning to maintain unneeded structures under the ruse of historic preservation. In most alternatives, there is a commitment to reduce Park Service reliance on motorized and mechanized transport as well as to avoid building new structures for wilderness administration. Also, most of the alternatives have measures to eliminate overuse. Wilderness Watch supports keeping these provisions in the plan.

Additionally, we urged the NPS to include an alternative that emphasizes untrammled or unmanipulated Wilderness, and allow the Olympic Wilderness to be as wild as possible. Read our comments: wildernesswatch.org/pdf/WW_Comments_Olympic_Alternatives.pdf 🌀

Controversial Copper-Nickel Mine Hearing Draws Crowd in Minnesota



Photo: Boundary Waters by Kevin Proescholdt

Wilderness Watch and other wilderness advocates are concerned about the proposed PolyMet mine in northeastern Minnesota. PolyMet's proposal has the potential to trade 20 years of mining jobs for 500 years of pollution, primarily from acid mine drainage into the waterways of the region. This first-of-its-kind copper-nickel sulfide mine, if approved, could pave the way for many of the other mines in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness watershed and would drain pollution into the Wilderness. More than 2,000 people attended the third and final hearing the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources held this past winter on the controversial plan. 🌀

Maintain Cumberland Island's Visitor Level



Photo: Sasha Greenspan

The National Park Service (NPS) announced this spring it was accepting bids for a new ferry service to Cumberland Island off the Georgia coast. Now officials and local entrepreneurs in St. Marys, GA, and Fernandina Beach, FL, are pushing to increase the number of daily visitors to the island, hoping more tourism will stimulate their economies.

Almost a third of Cumberland Island is designated Wilderness, offering an increasingly rare opportunity to enjoy the peace and quiet of a coastal island not overrun by tourism and development.

The visitor limit of 300 people/day on Cumberland has been in place for many years. Wilderness Watch and its Wild Cumberland chapter are opposing an increase in the number of daily visitors—to protect both the health of the island and visitors' experiences.

Let interim superintendent, Gary Ingram, know you support the current visitor level of 300 people/day:

Gary_Ingram@nps.gov

Phone: 912-882-4336

FAX: 912-882-6284

Cumberland Island National Seashore
Gary Ingram, interim superintendent
101 Wheeler Street
St. Marys, GA 31558 🐾

More Helicopters, Predator Killing Proposed for Bighorn "Management" in Arizona



Photo: Four Peaks Wilderness by Tom Dwyer

Wilderness Watch is opposing Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) proposals to land helicopters in six national forest Wildernesses in Arizona to capture, collar, translocate, and conduct other activities related to "managing" bighorn sheep, including possibly killing predators.

The proposal for the Pusch Ridge Wilderness in the Coronado National Forest will last at least four years with up to 160 helicopter landings and countless overflights.

The proposal for five Wildernesses on the Tonto National Forest—the Mazatzal, Hells Gate, Four Peaks, Salt River Canyon, and Superstition Wildernesses—will last at least a decade with 500 helicopter landings and countless overflights.

AGFD must get approval from the Forest Service for the projects. Wilderness Watch is urging the FS to complete environmental impact statements on the projects to assess the full, long-term impacts to Wilderness and whether the Pusch Ridge area can support a viable bighorn herd. Many researchers blame the recent extirpation of the species on the loss of habitat in the area.

Read our comments: wildernesswatch.org/pdf/WW_Comments_Tonto_Pusch_Ridge.pdf 🐾

ESSAY: Wilderness in the Eternity of the Future

By Ed Zahniser

**Editor's note: The following is reprinted from a speech Ed Zahniser gave this past May in Schenectady, NY.*

My father Howard Zahniser, who died four months before the 1964 Wilderness Act became law 50 years ago this September 3, was the chief architect of, and lobbyist for, this landmark Act. The Act created our 109.5-million-acre National Wilderness Preservation System.

Had I another credential, it would be that Paul Schaefer—the indomitable Adirondack conservationist—was one of my chief mentors and outdoor role models. Paul helped me catch my first trout. I was seven years old. That life event took place in what is now the New York State-designated Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area in the Adirondacks. Izaak Walton should be so lucky.

I worked for Paul Schaefer's construction outfit, Iroquois Hills, for two high school summers. I lived here in the family home—897 St. David's Lane—along with three of Paul and Carolyn's four children, Evelyn, Cub, and Monica, and Paul. I slept in the Adirondack room—in the loft. Carolyn Schaefer, Ma Schaefer, was cooking for the weather station on Whiteface Mountain those two summers. Evelyn and Monica and I were on our own in the kitchen with an oven that had just two settings, "off" and "hot as hell."

I spent many of those summer weekends with Paul in his Adirondack cabin, the Beaver House, near Bakers Mills. It was his heart's home. And so for me, as in much of life, it's not what you know. It's who. But I must add that trying to fry three two-minute eggs the way Paul Schaefer liked them—with NO cellophane edges!—could bring down more wrath than Marine boot camp. And don't ever let Paul sleep too late on Sunday morning to make it to mass in nearby North Creek.

Paul Schaefer lived by letterheads. He had a double fistful over the years. I was born the same year as Paul's letterhead group Friends of the Forest Preserve, formed in 1945 to fight the Black River Wars. I must now confess—with all due respect—that my siblings and I still often address each other as "Dear Friends of the Forest Preserve." To-

day the official group is Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve.

When I first read James Glover's *A Wilderness Original: The Life of Bob Marshall* it reminded me that the many family friends I grew up taking for granted as national conservation associates of my father Howard Zahniser had been recruited by New Yorker Bob Marshall in his travels. Bob Marshall's cohorts and co-founders of The Wilderness Society included Benton MacKaye, Bernard Frank, Harvey

Broome, Aldo Leopold, and Ernest Oberholtzer. They carried on his wilderness work as The Wilderness Society after Marshall died at age 38 in 1939.

MacKaye, Frank, and Leopold were trained foresters, as was Marshall, who also had a PhD in plant physiology. Broome was a lawyer for the Tennessee Valley Authority, where MacKaye and Frank worked as foresters. Also helping with Marshall's early Wilderness Society work were his personal recruits Sigurd Olson, an advocate with Ernest Ober-

holtzer of today's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota, and Olaus and Margaret E. "Mardy" Murie, who would play crucial roles in the creation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Bob Marshall inspired wilderness advocacy not only for federal public lands but also for the Adirondack wilderness of his youthful summers at the Marshall family camp near Saranac Lake. In July 1932, three years before The Wilderness Society was organized, Bob Marshall ran into a young Paul Schaefer atop Mount Marcy. Schaefer was photographing ravages of forest fires caused by careless logging of Adirondack High Peaks forests above the elevations that loggers had assured Bob Marshall and others that they would not cut.

Paul Schaefer was doing what his conservation mentor John Apperson said we must do. Stand on the land you want to save. Take pictures so the public sees what is at stake. John Apperson's rallying cry was "We Will Wake Them Up!" Paul would practice just that for more than a



Ed Zahniser speaks at the Kelly Adirondack Center of Union College in Schenectady, NY, May 8, 2014. The Center includes the former home of Paul and Carolyn Schaefer and family. Photo: Dan Plumley, Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve.

Wilderness Eternity continued

half century of wildlands advocacy. Atop Mount Marcy, not far above Verplanck Colvin's Lake Tear of the Clouds, Bob Marshall captured Paul Schaefer's wild imagination. Marshall called for wilderness advocates to band together, which took place with The Wilderness Society's birth three years later, in 1935.

In 1946, 14 years after his peak experience with Bob Marshall, Paul Schaefer recruited our father Howard Zahniser to defend Adirondack forest preserve wilderness. Apperson and Schaefer showed their documentary film about the dam-building threats to western Adirondack forest preserve lands at the February 1946 North American Wildlife Conference in New York City. My father had gone to work for The Wilderness Society the previous September 1945. After their presentation, my father told Schaefer that The Wilderness Society would help defend the western Adirondacks against dams in what became known as the Black River Wars.

When they took up the gauntlet in 1946, to block the series of dams was universally deemed a lost cause. But Schaefer and Zahnise—as our father was known—went from town to town in western New York, testifying at public hearings, meeting with news people, and identifying and cultivating local advocates of wildlands.

Zahnise also brought national experts from Washington, D.C. to New York to testify against the dams. So Paul Schaefer was Zahnise's mentor in sticking with lost causes, too. As Olaus Murie later said—and this is my all-time favorite quotation about our father—"Zahnise has unusual tenacity in lost causes." That was a New York State skill. I hope you have that skill, too, ". . . unusual tenacity in lost causes."

Schaefer invited Zahnise and our family to experience Adirondack wilderness firsthand that summer of 1946. Backpacking across the High Peaks wilderness that summer with Schaefer and his fellow conservationist Ed Richard, Zahnise remarked that the 'forever wild' clause of New York's state constitution might well model the stronger protection needed for wilderness on federal public lands. The next summer, 1947, The Wilderness Society governing council voted to pursue some form of more permanent protection for wilderness. That 1947 vote set the stage for the 1964 Wilderness Act.

The administrative classifications that Bob Marshall and Aldo Leopold had won to protect wilderness on federal, national forests were proving ephemeral. A housing boom followed World War II's end in 1945. Federal bureaucrats started de-classifying administratively designated wilderness areas for exploitation of timber, minerals, and hydropower.

Under Schaefer's tutelage, Zahnise dove into the Black Riv-

er Wars here in New York. Zahnise's federal government public relations work had taught him the machinations of multi-media publicity. But from and with Paul Schaefer in the Adirondacks, Zahnise learned firsthand the art of grass roots organizing and stumping for wilderness. Paul Schaefer built a statewide coalition of hunters, anglers, and other conservationists and held it together by the strength of his personality for 50 or 60 years. If you're looking for a job, there's one that is probably going begging tonight.

This truths our calling the Adirondacks and Catskills "where wilderness preservation began." The epic early 1950s fight against the Echo Park Dam proposed inside Dinosaur National Monument in Utah built the first-ever national conservation coalition. Then, having defeated the Echo Park dam proposal by 1955, Zahnise and the Sierra Club's David Brower put that coalition to work for the legislation that would become the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Zahnise and David Brower, who then headed the Sierra Club, led the Echo Park Dam fight. Brower told Christine and me at the National Wilderness Conference in 1994 that Zahnise was his mentor in the practical technics of conservation advocacy. So this also puts David Brower in the direct line of mentoring by Bob Marshall and John Apperson and Paul Schaefer's Adirondack wilderness advocacy. It was also during the western Adirondack dam fights that Zahnise met the philanthropist Edward Mallinckrodt, Jr., who helped bankroll the campaign against Echo Park Dam in the early 1950s.

In 1953 Zahnise gave a speech in Albany, New York to a committee of the New York State legislature. This was my father's first major public formulation of the wilderness idea. His topic was the remarkable record of the people of the Empire State in preserving in perpetuity a great resource of wilderness on their public lands. The speech was titled "New York's Forest Preserve and Our American Program for Wilderness." The 1953 speech also included a sentence that, unfortunately, does not appear in the 1964 Wilderness Act. Zahnise told the legislators that "We must never forget that the essential character of wilderness is its wildness."

Then, in 1957, Zahnise addressed the New York State Conservation Council's convention in Albany. He titled this speech "Where Wilderness Preservation Began." In it Zahnise said: "This recognition of the value of wilderness as wilderness is something with which you have long been familiar here in New York State. It was here that it first began to be applied to the preservation of areas as wilderness." In August 1996 Dave Gibson and Ken Rimany, Paul Schaefer's grandson David Greene, and my brother Matt Zahniser and I and our four sons backpacked across the High Peaks to commemorate the 50th

Wilderness Eternity continued on page 12

anniversary of the 1946 trip made by Schaefer, Ed Richard, and Zahnie. It remains crucially important to speak clearly and strongly for this unparalleled legacy of wildness—here and nationally—that we love and cherish. And only astute wilderness stewardship can put the forever in a wilderness forever future.

Bob Marshall, who was Jewish, early fought for wilderness as a minority right. Marshall also fought for a fair shake for labor and other social justice issues. On his death at age 38 in 1939, one-third of Bob Marshall's estate endowed The Wilderness Society, but two-thirds went to advocate labor and other social justice issues. Wilderness and wildness are necessity; they are not peripheral to a society holistically construed.

This bit of biography underscores how Congress declares the intent of the National Wilderness Preservation System Act to be “for the permanent good of the whole people...” —and this by a 1964 House of Representatives vote of 373 to 1. Isn't that amazing? And by an earlier Senate vote of 78 to 12.

Wilderness and wildness are integral to what Wendell Berry calls the circumference of mystery. Wilderness and wildness are integral to what the poet Denise Levertov calls the Great Web. Wilderness and wildness are integral to what the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. calls our inescapable network of mutuality. Wilderness and wildness are integral to what God describes to Job as the “circle on the face of the deep,” to the bio-sphere, to our circle of life, to our full community of life on Earth that derives its existence from the Sun.

The prophetic call of wilderness is not to escape the world. The prophetic call of wilderness is to encounter the world's essence. John Hay calls wilderness the “Earth's immortal genius.” Gary Snyder calls wilderness the planetary intelligence. Wilderness calls us to renewed kinship with all of

life. In Aldo Leopold's words, we will enlarge the boundaries of the community—we will live out a land ethic—only as we feel ourselves a part of the same community.

By securing a national policy of restraint and humility toward natural conditions and wilderness character, the Wilderness Act offers a sociopolitical step toward a land ethic, toward enlarging the boundaries of the community.

Preserving wilderness and wildness is about recognizing the limitations of our desires and the limitations of our capabilities within nature. But nature really is this all-encompassing community—including humans—that Aldo Leopold characterized simply as “the land.” With preserving designated wilderness we are putting a small percentage of the land outside the scope of our trammeling influence.

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law on September 3, 1964. Our mother Alice Zahniser stood in our father's place at the White House signing, and President Johnson gave her one of the pens he used. The future of American wilderness lies in continued concerted advocacy by spirited people intent on seeing our visionary legacy of thinking—and feeling—about wilderness and wildness taken up by new generations. Howard Zahniser said that in preserving wilderness, we take some of the precious ecological heritage that has come down to us from the eternity of the past, and we have the boldness to project it into the eternity of the future. If you are looking for good work, you will find no better work than to be a conduit for those two eternities. Go forth, do good, tell the stories, and keep it wild. 🌿

Ed Zahniser recently retired as the senior writer and editor with the National Park Service Publications Group in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. He writes and lectures frequently about wilderness, wildlands, and conservation history topics. He is the youngest child of Alice (1918–2014) and Howard Zahniser (1906–1964). Ed's father was the principal author and chief lobbyist for the Wilderness Act of 1964. Ed edited his father's Adirondack writings in Where Wilderness Preservation Began: Adirondack Writings of Howard Zahniser, and also edited Daisy Mavis Dalaba Allen's Ranger Bowback: An Adirondack farmer: a memoir of Hillmount Farms (Bakers Mills).

Order your Wilderness Act Anniversary Commemorative Poster



Internationally-acclaimed artist Monte Dolack was commissioned to create the official artwork and poster to commemorate the Wilderness Act's 50th anniversary this year. The Monte Dolack Gallery in Missoula, Montana unveiled “The Peaceable Kingdom of Wilderness” during the June 6 First Friday Art Night, which more than 300 people attended.

Dolack was selected by Wilderness50, a group of non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies planning events around the country to commemorate the Act's golden anniversary.

Wilderness Watch is selling posters for \$25 (or \$75 for a limited-edition signed poster). Shipping is \$5 for the first poster, \$1 for each additional poster. To order, contact Jeff Smith at 406.542.2048 x1/jsmith@wildernesswatch.org. or order online: <https://www.charity-pay.com/d/donation.asp?CID=75>. To see the work

in progress, visit our blog: wildernesswatch.wordpress.com/2014/06/ 🌿

Zion: Bighorn Farm or Wilderness?



Photo: National Park Service

Wilderness Watch is opposing a National Park Service (NPS) proposal to allow the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) to use helicopters and other invasive methods to remove bighorn sheep from the Zion Wilderness. The project is intended to reduce bighorn sheep numbers in the Park and to provide a supply of bighorns for transplant to areas where they can be hunted.

In our scoping comments, we pointed out the lack of scientific evidence to support the idea of too many sheep in the Park. There is no need for Zion to reduce bighorn numbers, as other national parks don't routinely trap and transplant their bighorns. In Wilderness, predators and other natural factors should regulate bighorn numbers.

The NPS claims the project would be carried out to prevent fatal diseases from spreading to bighorns from domestic sheep. However, with no grazing allotments in the immediate area, this threat is unfounded.

Read our comments: wildernesswatch.org/pdf/WW_Comments_Zion_Bighorn_Scoping.pdf 🐾

Wolverine Recovery Plan a Step Forward



Photo: Wikipedia

Wilderness Watch and Friends of the Clearwater are viewing Idaho's draft wolverine recovery plan as a good start to improving the survival of this imperiled species. The plan recognizes that the large Wildernesses of Idaho—the Selway-Bitterroot, the Frank Church-River of No Return, the Gospel Hump, Hells Canyon, and the Sawtooth Wildernesses—all provide crucial wolverine habitat. Nonetheless, wolverines are very rare even in Idaho's "Big Wild." This draft plan should not replace listing the wolverine under the Endangered Species Act (once proposed but now withdrawn by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

We are encouraging the state to preserve wilderness character in any research or monitoring that might take place in Wilderness. We are also urging the agencies to adopt measures to reduce the serious threats to wolverine

recovery, including incidental trapping and winter recreation use (mainly snowmobiles). Read our comments: wildernesswatch.org/pdf/WW_Comments_Wolverine_Plan.pdf 🐾

Save the Dates: Wilderness 50 National Conference, 10/15-10/19 in Albuquerque, NM

Wilderness50 National Conference: Over the last few years, Wilderness Watch has been involved in planning efforts for the official national conference celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The conference will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico from Thursday, October 15, to Sunday, October 19. The program includes a special opening ceremony welcome from former president Jimmy Carter, eight plenary programs, 84 track sessions, two lunch panels, posters, exhibits, learning activities for kids, for-credit pre-conference trainings and K-12 teacher workshops, over 20 field trips to local Wildernesses and cultural sites, a film gala, and a public 'Get Wild' Festival. Wilderness Watch board members (past and present) and staff who will be presenting include Janine Blaeloch, Stewart Brandborg, Jon Dettmann, Louise Lasley, Gary Macfarlane, Fran Mauer, George Nickas, Kevin Proescholdt, Dawn Serra, and Howie Wolke. We hope you will join us! Please note that registration increases by \$100 after September 1st, so if you are planning to attend, please think about registering before then. Visit W50's website to learn more about the Conference and register: www.wilderness50th.org/conference.php 🐾

Wilderness in Congress

Sleeping Bear Dunes Wilderness

On March 13, President Obama signed into law the legislation establishing the 32,557-acre Sleeping Bear Dunes Wilderness in Michigan. The nation's newest Wilderness is part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the northwest corner of the lower peninsula of Michigan, along the shore of Lake Michigan. It is administered by the National Park Service with four wilderness units on the mainland, plus North Manitou Island and South Manitou Island several miles off shore. In addition to being the first Wilderness designated in five years, the Sleeping Bear Dunes Wilderness bill was also free of any special provisions that plague so many other wilderness bills across the country and allow incompatible uses.

Green Mountain Lookout

On April 15, President Obama unfortunately signed into law the bill to retain the illegally-constructed replica lookout building atop Green Mountain in the Glacier Peak Wilderness in Washington. This legislation bypasses the Wilderness Watch court victory that declared the 2009 construction of this new building violated both the Wilderness Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Sadly, it was the Wilderness Society that promoted the bill, giving political cover for the State of

Washington's Congressional delegation who might have otherwise been reticent to support such anti-wilderness legislation.

Idaho Wilderness Water Structures Bill

On July 25, President Obama signed into law the "Idaho Wilderness Water Resources Protection Act." This bill grandfathers in water systems built by private inholders in the Frank Church-River of No Return and Selway-Bitterroot Wildernesses in Idaho. Many of these water structures and systems were illegally built by trespass but were never removed by the Forest Service as they should have been.

North Cascades National Park Fish Stocking

On July 25, the President also signed the "North Cascades National Park Service Complex Fish Stocking Act" into law. This bill allows the National Park Service (NPS) to continue fish stocking in up to 42 of the 91 lakes previously stocked in North Cascades National Park and the Stephen Mather Wilderness within the park. These lakes, some naturally inhabited by fish and some naturally fishless, were stocked in some instances with non-native species. This bill is a step back from the recent progress the NPS has made in returning to a more natural fishery in North Cascades. ♪

Wilderness in the Courts

In addition to our successful litigation efforts that stopped the Idaho Fish and Game Department's attempts to exterminate wolves from the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness (see p. 6), Wilderness Watch has been active on two other cases.

South Fowl Snowmobile Trail, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, MN

Wilderness Watch and our allies have been fighting for a decade a Forest Service (FS) plan to build the South Fowl Snowmobile Trail next to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. We allege the trail would violate the Wilderness Act because the sights and sounds of snowmobiles on the new trail would degrade the Wilderness. The Forest Service initially refused to even consider impacts to the Boundary Waters until a federal judge ordered the agency to assess the impacts to the area's wilderness character.

After preparing an environmental impact statement, the FS decided to charge full-speed ahead. When we questioned the FS' analysis of noise impacts the agency asked the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a review. The NPS review refuted the FS analysis: the project area's current natural state was quieter than the FS claimed, the noise from snowmobiles using the proposed trail would be louder, and the impact to the Wilderness would be greater. Despite these findings and an alternative route that would access the same destination without impinging on the Boundary Waters, the FS decided to once again approve the trail.

So Wilderness Watch, the Izaak Walton League of America,

Sierra Club Northstar Chapter, and Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness are again asking the Court to reject the FS plan on the basis that it violates the Wilderness Act and National Environmental Policy Act. We are deeply grateful for the pro bono legal services provided by Kristen Marttila and her colleagues at Lockridge Grindall Nauen in Minneapolis.

Izembek Wilderness Road, AK

Wilderness Watch and several other organizations have been granted Intervenor status in a lawsuit that challenges the Secretary of Interior's decision to deny the State of Alaska's request to build a road through the Izembek Wilderness in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed road would connect the town of King Cove to Cold Bay. The lawsuit was filed by the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, the Native Village of Belkofski, the King Cove Corporation, the Aleutians East Borough, the City of King Cove, and two individuals.

In the 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Act, Congress directed the Secretary to analyze a land exchange with the State of Alaska for the proposed road. After completing an environmental impact statement and numerous meetings and consultations, the Secretary determined there are better options than a road, and that road would irreparably harm the refuge and the Izembek Wilderness. The Secretary declined the land exchange, eliminating the possibility of a road.

Wilderness Watch and our colleagues strongly support the Secretary's decision. We are represented by Katie Strong and her colleagues at Trustees for Alaska, a non-profit firm that has been protecting wild lands in Alaska for nearly four decades. ♪

Taking Wilderness Knowledge With You

By Jeff Smith



For eight miles we followed the river in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, still gushing snowmelt the second week of July. We camped in Breakneck Meadow, 50 acres plush with wildflowers, a broad green smile beneath the white rim of the Lake Plateau.


That evening a cow elk stood at the edge of the meadow with her newborn and sniffed our fire. A bull elk with his antlers in velvet grazed within 30 yards and wandered into the trees behind our tent. A young whitetail shuffled back and forth, unsure whether to follow its mother, tilting its head left and right to make sense of us. A moose calf, all elbows, appeared on the far side of the river with its mother.

When we sit at computers, Wilderness becomes an abstraction, an interpretation of words in the famous law passed 50 years ago . . . But, this summer as Carol and I once again found out, Wilderness can also be bright, vivid, and as real as that last beat of your heart.

The day after we left our secluded meadow and hiked out, crossing that boundary back to ordinary life, our cell phones finally found a signal. We learned that Carol's father had died, sadly something expected, and we extended our trip another week to attend a profound family farewell ceremony.

Somehow that preface in the Absaroka-Beartooths made the sadness bearable.

Wilderness reduces life to its essentials. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. We recognize that we are a part of this broad collection of life—and that all life inevitably ends. Carol and her siblings spread their patriarch's ashes on a sandstone bluff on his beloved ranch, and he will forever be a part of it, along with the sandhill cranes, the elk and deer, the wind-blown grasses, sage, ponderosa pines and juniper he loved.

Howard Zahniser may have put it best when he wrote that Wilderness is “essential to a true understanding of ourselves, our culture, our own natures, and our place in all nature.” To maintain these wild areas is why Wilderness Watch exists. 

LOVE THE WILDERNESS? Help Us Keep It Wild!

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

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On our Blog

Wilderness More Important than Ever

*by Kevin Proescholdt, Conservation Director and
Howie Wolke, Vice President, Wilderness Watch*

Christopher Solomon got it wrong in so many ways in his July 6 New York Times op-ed, "Rethinking the Wild: The Wilderness Act Is Facing A Midlife Crisis". The history of the wilderness movement and of the 1964 Wilderness Act shows how wrong and myopic he was. In fact, the visionary Wilderness Act is needed now more than ever.

Solomon bases his argument on a fundamental misunderstanding of the meaning and value of Wilderness. He argues that since all Wildernesses are affected by anthropogenic climate change, human manipulation of Wilderness is now acceptable—even desirable, since the genie is already out of the bottle. Intervene and manipulate without constraint, he proclaims. But this approach contradicts the very idea of Wilderness.

Read the rest on our blog: www.wilderness-watch.wordpress.com/2014/07 

WW Welcomes Dana Johnson

Wilderness Watch hired Dana Johnson this spring, a public interest attorney in Moscow, Idaho, as its first staff attorney. Dana has provided federal litigation and general legal services for non-profit environmental groups, including Wilderness Watch, and



individual advocates throughout the Northern Rockies bioregion since 2010. Dana will be assisting Wilderness Watch with overall litigation strategy, representation in federal court, and coordination with other attorneys and legal interns working with Wilderness Watch.

Dana also serves on the Board of Directors for the Civil Liberties Defense Center. When she's not in the office, Dana spends her time with her husband and 4 legged family members growing and preserving food, exploring the mountains in the Clearwater region, writing, rafting, and ultra running. Dana is also an aspiring Spanish speaker, mandolin player, and gourmet chef; although, some of those aspirations are reportedly faring better than others. Dana's primary passions, regardless of whether she is working, playing, or simply living, revolve around the Wild and finding ways to exist as part of the Wild. 