



# WILDERNESS WATCHER

A Voice for Wilderness Since 1989

The Quarterly Newsletter of Wilderness Watch

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## Congress Rides Roughshod Over Wilderness

Last minute riders trample Wilderness protections in Georgia and Idaho

— By Hilary Wood

2004 was to be the year of Wilderness. It was a time for Americans to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the landmark piece of legislation that gave us the National Wilderness Preservation System. Celebrations were held nationwide, giving thanks to the authors and bipartisan supporters of the Wilderness Act who foresaw the invaluable benefits of preserving wild, untamed land in perpetuity. These lands encompass our beloved hiking trails and hunting grounds, untouched habitat for innumerable species, and reservoirs for clean air and water – assets we are duty-bound to safeguard for future generations.

And though the country rose up in support of Wilderness, our shared enthusiasm could not withstand the onslaught of special interest dealing. Finding the ear of its Congressmen, commercial operations previously defeated in federal court sought permission to exploit key areas of the public's Wilderness in Idaho and Georgia. Their requests were granted by the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, in its lame duck session, through the last minute insertion of



Cumberland Island, GA (left), Wild Salmon River, ID (right). Cumberland photo by Mark S. Wurst, 2001.

two provisions into a \$388 billion omnibus appropriations bill. In doing so, Congress ushered in an ironic end to 2004's Year of Wilderness – it stripped legal protections from well-established designated Wilderness.

### The two special interest riders affect the following Wildernesses:

- **Cumberland Island**, which lies off Georgia's southeast coast, is the largest undeveloped barrier island on the eastern seaboard. The entire island was designated as the Cumberland Island National Seashore in 1972. Ten years later Congress designated 8,800 acres of the heart of the Island's north end as the Cumberland Island Wilderness. The new bill fractures the contiguous Wilderness into pieces, approves roads cutting through the remaining Wilderness and authorizes motorized tours by the National Park Service, Greyfield Inn (a private corporation), and up to three other concessionaires. In addition to reversing

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## A Promise Broken...

To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people. — *opening sentence in the 1964 Wilderness Act*

With these words one generation of Americans made a pact with future generations to permanently protect the last remaining vestiges of the original wild America. Without the Wilderness Act, future generations would suffer what author and historian Wallace Stegner called “a headlong drive into our technological termite-life” where “never again will Americans be free in their own country from the noise, the exhausts, the stinks of human and automotive waste.” With the Act, future generations had an iron-clad promise that Wilderness would be there for them, forever.



Like the treaties that were so cavalierly broken with Native Americans a century or more ago, the 108th Congress broke the promise of a forever Wilderness. As our cover story describes, in the last days of the session and behind closed doors, Republican Congressman Jack Kingston (GA) slipped a provision into the several-thousand-page omnibus appropriations bill that essentially de-designated the Cumberland Island Wilderness. It marked the first time that Congress took the unimaginable step of carving up a Wilderness, and it did so underhandedly by attaching an unrelated measure to a must-pass \$388 billion spending bill. To make matters worse, it was done at the behest of a wealthy constituent who wants to run commercial motorized tours through the area. “Shameful” seems too kind a word.

As Michael Frome notes elsewhere in this issue, these are trying times for our nation’s designated Wilderness, yet some fail to see it. Many in Washington DC don’t grasp why Wilderness is so important to our national character. They use it and abuse it to curry political favor, in the process cheapening its very meaning. Wilderness becomes a chit for political trading, a way to cozy up to special interests and to gain support for otherwise unsupportable pork-barrel bills. This is not the kind of stability required to secure a sacred trust for the permanent good of the whole people.

The next two years promise more of the same, unless the wilderness community rises up in unison to defend both the spirit and idea of Wilderness. It simply is no longer enough, if it ever was, to care only about building a bigger Wilderness system when its very foundation is being eroded by uncaring politicians, backroom deal-making and special provisions in new wilderness bills. Collectively, these things are undermining and cheapening the very meaning of Wilderness.

On a much brighter note, I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to all of you, our members, for your support for Wilderness Watch throughout the year. Because of you and despite the most difficult political odds, we’ve scored a number of successes and given Wilderness a voice in places where it would otherwise be silenced. You can be proud that you made a difference in the past year and, together with your continued support, we’ll make a difference in the year ahead.

I wish you all the best in this holiday season.

  
George Nickas



**The Wilderness Watcher** is the quarterly newsletter of Wilderness Watch, a non-profit organization advocating the protection and responsible stewardship of the nation’s designated Wildernesses and Wild & Scenic Rivers.

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# Riders on the Storm

Omnibus Appropriations Bill is bad news for wildlands

**A**s discussed in our cover story, the Omnibus Appropriations Bill considered by the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress contained numerous riders targeting conservation protections on our public lands. For those working to stop these bills, the task was complicated by the fact that nobody seemed to know what was included, as the text of the Appropriations Bill stretched for thousands of pages. Omnibus bills are considered “must pass” legislation due to the potential for government gridlock. Taking advantage of this rush, some members of Congress attached last-minute additions as a way of getting quick approval for controversial projects.

## The following summary is a quick guide to the special interest riders in the bill:



Permanent lodge on the Wild Salmon River. Wilderness Watch file photo.

**Lightning bolt icon** **Cumberland Island Wilderness Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004:** Strips wilderness protection from the Cumberland Island Wilderness by de-designating the existing wilderness, then re-designating certain disconnected parcels as wilderness, carved up by unpaved 1-lane tracks where motor vehicles will be allowed to drive.

**Lightning bolt icon** **Wild Salmon River, ID:** Amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to allow three outfitter lodges to remain on the designated Wild Salmon River corridor within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, our largest contiguous wilderness in the lower 48.

**Lightning bolt icon** **Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act:** Authorizes a vastly expanded fee-demo program, making the Recreation Access Tax (RAT) applicable to all national forest and Bureau of Land Management lands, national wildlife refuges, national parks, and Bureau of Reclamation lands. The bill establishes criminal penalties for those who don't pay the public lands access fees (6 months in prison and/or \$5,000 fine). This bill has never been passed by the full House and has never been introduced, had hearings, or been voted on by the Senate.

**Lightning bolt icon** **Tongass National Forest, AK:** Places a 30-day limitation on legal challenges of timber sales on the Tongass National Forest, and interferes with judicial review by pressuring judges to rule on Tongass timber lawsuits within 180 days.

**Lightning bolt icon** **Grazing:** Waives environmental review of grazing permit renewals on national forest lands — no NEPA analysis of impacts or public input would be required before renewing grazing permits.

**Lightning bolt icon** **Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, AK:** Transfers 100,000 acres of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to the Doyon Corporation, a Native corporation seeking to drill oil on land currently protected as critical wildlife habitat. Yukon Flats is located immediately south of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

**Lightning bolt icon** **Yellowstone Nat'l Park, WY:** Implements a winter use plan for the park that allows 720 snowmobiles per day into Yellowstone and 140 snowmobiles per day into Grand Teton Nat'l Park. The bill mandates the winter use plan for the 2004-2005 season, rendering it immune from modification and legal challenge.

**Lightning bolt icon** **Sequoia-Kings Canyon Nat'l Park, CA:** Grants 62 Mineral King cabin owners permanent occupancy in the national park. When the Mineral King area was included in the park in 1978, the cabin owners were given 25-year leases, after which the cabins were to be removed. This bill gives away the public's land to the current “owners” and their heirs.

WHAT EVERYBODY'S  
GETTING FOR  
**XMAS...**



By Gavin McNeil, Idaho Mountain Express



## Riders, continued from page 1

nearly a decade of work by Wilderness Watch, the rider disregards an 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals ruling won earlier this year holding that the motorized tours violated both the Wilderness Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

- **The Wild Salmon River** flows through the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho, the largest contiguous Wilderness in the Lower 48. When it was still a primitive area, the Forest Service allowed seven commercial outfitters to set up temporary hunting camps along the Salmon River. Over time, the outfitters turned the camps into permanent buildings (lodges with glass windows, doors, covered porches, septic systems, etc) despite the Wilderness Act's prohibition of permanent structures. When the Regional Forester told the outfitters the permanent elements of the camps must go, four complied, removing all such developments from their campsites. Three, however, refused to dismantle their structures. Over a 15-year period, Wilderness Watch worked to have the lodges removed, winning a district court ruling that the lodges were illegal and had to be removed by Spring 2005. This rider authorizes them to remain.

### Is any Wilderness safe?

The implications of above-mentioned riders spread far beyond the on-the-ground impacts in Georgia and Idaho. They give rise to supposition that designated Wilderness -



land provided with the highest level of conservation protection in the United States - can be unraveled by a few special interests and a handful of congressmen. That despite the highly controversial nature of these bills, they do not even warrant full disclosure and debate in the legislature. These new realities make a mockery of the opening sentence of the Wilderness Act, which established a National Wilderness Preservation System for "the permanent good of the whole people." It would appear that in today's world, Wilder-

ness is far from "permanent" and is fully susceptible to the commercial aims of a few at the expense of present and future generations of Americans.

The underhanded nature of the three riders did not go unnoticed. Seventeen moderate Republicans sent a letter asking Bill Young (R-Fla.), Chair of the House Appropria-



tions Committee, to remove the environmental riders from the bill. They urged the chairman to "insure that these controversial issues are dealt with through the normal legislative process next session." Sadly, this wisdom fell on deaf ears, was rendered obsolete in backroom deals, or was sacrificed to the "political realities" in Washington. The loser, as usual, was the American people.

### The Importance of Being Vigilant

**vig-i-lant** (vj-lnt) *adj.* On the alert; watchful.

"In every adversity there lies the seed of an equivalent advantage. In every defeat is a lesson showing you how to win the victory next time." —Robert Collier

If any good can be wrung from the harmful provisions affecting Cumberland Island and the Wild Salmon River, it comes in the form of a lesson. The lesson is rather simple, though it demands the passion, voice, and effort of generations. If we truly want to uphold the legacy of the Wilderness Act, if we value wild land and the communities it supports, then we must exercise constant vigilance to ensure its preservation. Despite the hard work of designating new Wilderness, the real work begins with the long-term stewardship and preservation of the new area's wilderness character. Like all noble things, true Wilderness protection requires humility and restraint, as well as the recognition that we are working for the greater good - for future generations of our own species and countless others.

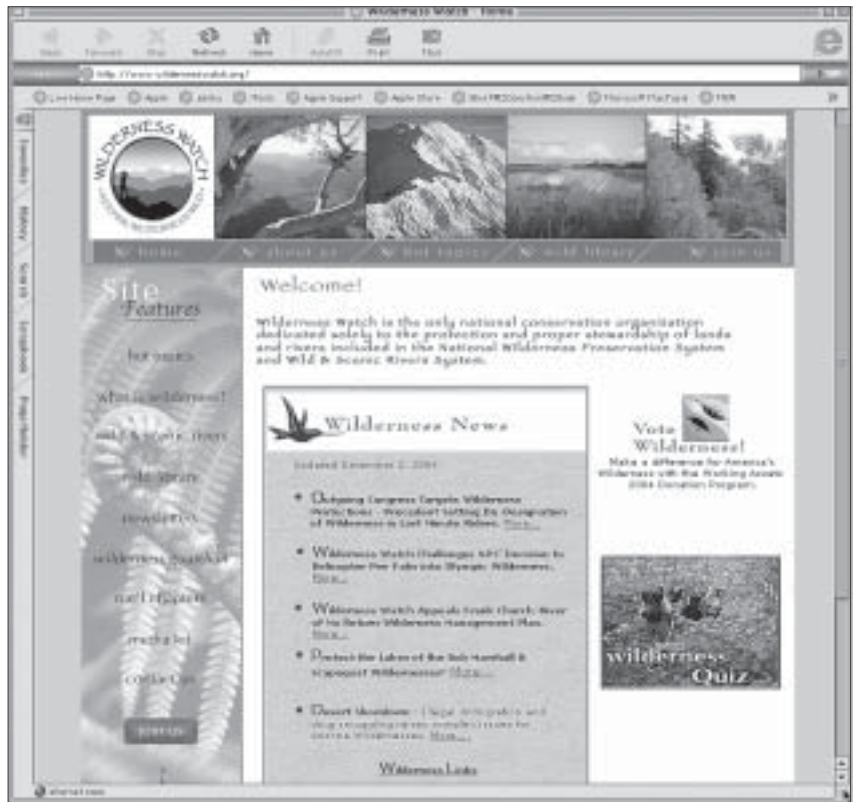
Lacking this vigilance, it is becoming increasingly clear that greed, last minute deals, and mediocrity will chip away at the Wilderness we want to believe is well protected. We cannot afford to entrust our shared Wilderness heritage to bureaucrats more concerned with commercial interests than with upholding the spirit and intent of the Wilderness Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Likewise, we cannot assume that the current Congress will act to correct abuses, in fact it often makes things worse. Instead, it is our duty, the duty of those whose hearts are moved by wild land, by mountains and fish-full streams, untamed prairie, and ancient forests. We must increase our own awareness and the awareness of others as to the threats facing our last wild areas, and act as a united force to stop abuses at every level. If Wilderness is to be the birthright of every American, we must fight for its integrity and longevity - if we don't accept this task as Wilderness advocates, nobody will. ☞



## Visit our Updated Web Site

Check out the changes at [www.wildernesswatch.org](http://www.wildernesswatch.org)!

Wilderness Watch's official web site enjoyed a thorough upgrade this fall, making it more informative and user-friendly than before. The new site has the same basic format as the old site, with information about Wilderness Watch and its national chapters, up-to-date news concerning Wilderness and Wild Rivers nationwide, and complete archives of our listserve, *Wilderness Guardian*, and our newsletter, *Wilderness Watcher*. You will notice that the header on the top of the page has changed, now showing our logo and four photos selected to show the diversity of Wilderness landscapes nationwide. The Wild Library has been updated and revised and, though still an ongoing project, aims to provide in-depth coverage of wilderness stewardship issues and practical advice for citizen activists who want to make a difference. The site is also an easy place to renew your Wilderness Watch membership, become a monthly donor, or become a new member. You can either print out our membership form or use our secure server to donate online.



The web site is an excellent tool for learning about the National Wilderness Preservation

System and the work Wilderness Watch does to ensure its preservation. You can test your Wilderness IQ with our interactive quiz, or just review the issues we have worked on in the past. We welcome your input on the site – please contact Hilary Wood at [hwood@wildernesswatch.org](mailto:hwood@wildernesswatch.org) to suggest any edits and/or inclusions. Enjoy!

## Forest Service Centennial Public forums help shape wilderness management priorities

In January 2005 the Forest Service will host a Centennial gathering to chart the agency's course over its next 100 years. In preparation, the agency held a series of regional Forums, each focusing on a specific management issue. In November, the agency's national forum for Wilderness was held in Missoula to identify challenges and shape recommendations for future wilderness stewardship goals and priorities. Wilderness Watch and other non-agency groups joined with national forest managers to discuss ways to build a knowledgeable public constituency for stewardship, the role of scientific research in wilderness protection, and the skills and characteristics needed by wilderness managers. Some conclusions were that the social sciences should receive more emphasis in preparing wilderness managers, and the first constituency groups to target for building knowledge and support for stewardship are the people within the agency itself, and the conservation advocacy community. Recommendations from the gathering will be presented at the national Centennial in January 2005.



Sawtooth Wilderness, ID. WW file photo.



# Remaining True to the Intent of Wilderness



Excerpts from the keynote address of Michael Frome, Ph.D.  
Utah Environmental Congress  
Salt Lake City, Utah, November 13, 2004

*Michael Frome, Ph.D., began his writing career as a reporter for the Washington Post. He has written eighteen books, including Greenspeak, Green Ink, Battle for the Wilderness, Chronicling the West and Strangers in High Places. He has received many awards and honors. Former US Senator Gaylord Nelson, of Wisconsin, said of him: "No writer in America has more persistently argued for the need of a national ethic of environmental stewardship." He lives with his wife, June Eastvold, at Port Washington, Wisconsin.*

I welcome your invitation to speak on "Remaining True to the Intent of Wilderness," a subject, or theme, or purpose, that has meant much to me for many years. Simply stated, I believe that wilderness is the heart of the American ideal, that those slender, choice fragments of earth still wild, mysterious and primeval nourish the soul and spirit of the nation and its people. That we have set aside these special places is known throughout the world; wilderness preservation as part of our way of life makes a far better and more welcome calling card to other nations than all the armed might we can muster and release abroad.

The very idea of wilderness enriches my body, mind and spirit, but it also elevates me to look beyond my own wants and needs. The American tradition has sought the transformation of resources; materialism prevails as the dominant paradigm. But there is more to America and its people than manufacture, merchandise and marketing. Nature, unspoiled, opens avenues of discovery, exploration, healing, spiritual enrichment and growth to us all. The Wilderness Act stimulates a fundamental and older tradition of relationship with resources themselves. A river is accorded its right to exist because it is a river, rather than for any utilitarian service. Through appreciation of wilderness, I perceive the true role of the river, as a living symbol of all the life it sustains and nourishes, and my responsibility to it.

Attainments in preservation, as in any manifestation of ethics and idealism, do not come easily. In the case of the Wilderness Act, fruition came after eight years of discussion and debate by the Senate and House of Representatives, and after eighteen separate hearings conducted by Congressional committees around the country. The bill was rewritten time and again, passed in the Senate, then bottled up in the House. The very idea of legitimizing wilderness was aggressively opposed by the timber industry and by the oil, grazing and mining industries. The National Park Service and Forest Service opposed it, too: The public may own the land, but the administrators prefer to exercise their own prerogative without sharing decision-making authority. But the people, all kinds of people, rallied to the wilderness cause. The very effort surrounding passage makes the Wilderness Act impressive as a statement of national purpose. For it plainly evoked the feeling of countless

individuals throughout the country — and likely throughout the world — who would speak for wilderness if given the chance and would say that natural islands within our expanding civilization are essential to the spirit of humankind.

I think of the campaigners for the Wilderness Act as true patriots. Howard Zahniser, the principal author and advocate of the Wilderness Act of 1964, was studious, articulate and compassionate. "We are not fighting progress," Zahniser said. "We are making it. We are not dealing with a vanishing wilderness. We are working for a wilderness forever." In 1956 Representative John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania introduced the Wilderness Bill in the House of Representatives. In many ways he was a conservative Republican. Nevertheless, for eight years Saylor led the uphill legislative battle and never gave up. In 1961, when the going was tough, he declared: "I cannot believe the American people have become so crass, so dollar-minded, so exploitation-conscious that they must develop every last little bit of wilderness that still exists."



*Coyote. WW file photo.*

I like to think the wilderness cause appeals to the best in people, and to the best people, who give of themselves with commitment and compassion, like Dick Carter and Margaret Pettis, who have made the country conscious of the special qualities of the High Uintas. Stewart Brandborg,

who succeeded Howard Zahniser as executive director of the Wilderness Society following Zahniser's death and who served in that capacity for fifteen years, and Brock Evans, a longtime leader of the Sierra Club, National Audubon Society and the Endangered Species Coalition, have been close friends of mine for forty or fifty years. I daresay that efforts to remain true to the intent of wilderness have rewarded me greatly in lasting, treasured friendships.

Looking back, I remember environmental leaders of forty or fifty years ago as missionaries. Those people gave us broad shoulders to stand on: like David Brower, the most militant and effective of his day, and like Zahniser, who drafted the Wilderness Bill, creating reality out of a dream. I'm sorry to say that in the years since then I have watched various leaders of national environmental organizations change from missionaries to corporate CEOs. Brower, later came back to the Sierra Club as a member of the board of directors, but in May 2000 resigned out of frustration. "The world is burning and all I hear from them is the music of violins," he declared. "The planet is being trashed, but the board has no real sense of urgency. We need to try to save the earth at least as fast as it's being destroyed."

In my book he was right as rain: We still are subject to Nero's fiddling while Rome and the world burn. Something has happened between then and now. Our public agencies, the Forest Service and National Park Service, have lost their way. They want to think of themselves as "marketers" of mass recreation as a commodity, building "partnerships" with commercial interests, the bigger the better, and treating the public as "customers." Environmentalists need to bring the agencies back on track as resource stewards in committed public service.

These indeed are tough and trying times. We need to sound the alarm and to alert the public to the "new" face of wilderness bills in Congress, highly questionable pseudo-wilderness proposals, like the Owyhee Initiative and the Boulder-White Clouds in Idaho and the Lincoln County (Nevada) Conservation, Recreation and Development Act. When you read of conservation, recreation and development in the same package, you can bet your bottom dollar that wilderness protection will come last and least. Those bills include harmful tradeoffs, giving away more wilderness and public land than they protect; they bypass environmental laws with dangerous new precedents privatizing public lands for the benefit of commercial developers, favoring the use of motorized equipment inside wilderness, releasing large and significant areas from wilderness study, and with legislative negotiations conducted behind closed doors. That isn't right and it is not in the best interest of the country.

Maybe the most important role of the public lands is to safeguard wilderness. Wilderness is at the core of a healthy society. Wilderness, above all its definitions, purposes and uses, is sacred space, with sacred power, the heart of a moral world. Wilderness preservation is not so much a system or a tactic, but a way of understanding the sacred connection with all of life, with people, plants, animals,



*Maroon Bells - Snowmass Wilderness, CO. WW file photo.*

water, sunlight, and clouds. It's an attitude and way of life with a spiritual ecological dimension.

The leadership now in wilderness preservation, as I see it, comes from Wilderness Watch, a wise and courageous outfit that remains true to the intent, and from Wild Wilderness, run by Scott Silver as a one-man band in Bend, Oregon, and from grassroots groups like the Utah Environmental Congress.

The best defense clearly is an aware, alert and involved public. Yes, these are hard times, especially following the recent election. There may be room for gloom, but not for doom. Shortly after Harvey Broome died in 1968, Representative John P. Saylor paid tribute to him on the floor of the House of Representatives with these words: "We must resolve never to falter, as he never faltered, and to take inspiration from his life to fight all the harder for the future of the wilderness. His spirit knows no boundaries and will be with us in the years ahead." Then Saylor went on to say he was proud to consider himself a fellow to Robert Marshall, Olaus Murie, Howard Zahniser, and Harvey Broome: "They were all great leaders," he said, "for the saving of wilderness for our time, for all time. They have passed on, but their legacy falls to new leaders, as their spirit lives on." Yes, their spirit lives on and the legacy is ours, yours and mine. 🌿



## Proclamation

Public Law 88-577, 88th Congress, S. 4

September 3, 1964:(revised 2004):

### What We Meant to Enact

WE MEANT TO establish a National Wilderness System  
To ensure the permanent good of the entire planet,  
*No ifs, and, buts, or exclusions.* We meant to

set an example for the rest of the world. We meant to acknowledge persons as *part* of the creation, not as creators, controllers, or know it alls. We meant to simplify our own human needs so that, for instance, elk might migrate without skipping over gas pipes; we meant to control our human population so that we might not have to slaughter deer who munch our suburban sprawl shrubbery;

we meant to found our acts upon the axiom that humans are neither master nor keeper nor even steward, but are one species among many species. We meant to define

Wilderness as if we meant it. So, from this day forward, when we say 'Wilderness' we will mean water pure and clean and baby-bottle drinkable filling each and every lake, river, tributary, stream, pond, and aquifer. That is, **Be It Enacted**

and about time by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, **that the entire planet is hereby designated Wilderness**, to be left cleaner than we found it. We meant to, and now we will, lead by example. **From this day forth**

we acknowledge, and plan to act in accordance with that knowledge, that The Wilderness is not a place like a mall, like a theme park, like a zoo, like a museum but that The Wilderness is another name for what some call god, for the exquisite essential intricate interrelationship among and between all matter.

Sorry it has taken us these last long forty years to figure out that no one even in their wrong mind would, say, preserve a single sample glass of water and, keeping it clean, believe that Water, therefore, is preserved, that when one needs water, one need simply to visit an example if water for one's thirst to be quenched, for one's goldfish, lawn, garden, farm, village, ocean, or grandbaby to be nourished.

**Again**, we're truly sorry it has taken us so, so long to figure this out! We're only human, after all,

and that, along with being a joy of our species, is the problem. Once we came to *that* knowledge, this **Proclamation and Revision of the Wilderness Act** became, of course, inevitable.

— *Linnea Johnson, Topeka, Kansas*

## Wild Voices



**Linnea Johnson** holds a BA and a Ph.D. in English, and an MA in Writing and Women's Studies from Goddard College, and has taught in colleges and universities as well as privately mentoring other writers, poets, playwrights, & essayists. She is the author of *The Chicago Home*, an award-winning collection of her poems. Her poems appear in *Prairie Schooner*, *The Beloit Poetry Journal*, *The American Poetry Review*, *Tar Wolf Review*, *Spoon River Poetry Journal*, *Luna*, *North American Review & Puerto Del Sol*, among others.



# On the Watch

## Glacier Bay Wilderness, AK

**Far from Enlightened** - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recently licensed the Gustavus Electric Company to build a 800-kilowatt hydrodam on the Kahtaheena River in the Glacier Bay Wilderness in south-east Alaska. The power will be sold to the community of Gustavus, which currently relies on diesel-generated electricity. To accommodate the project, 1,145 acres of national park land and Wilderness will be given to the State of Alaska in exchange for state parkland. The land swap was approved under the Glacier Bay National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 1998 (a rider on a larger appropriations bill), but was stalled pending FERC's authorization. Wilderness Watch opposed the project, noting that Wilderness should not be undesignated to accommodate a commercial enterprise.

## Lusk Creek Wilderness, IL

**No More Horsing Around** - Citizens working to halt damage from unregulated stock use in the Lusk Creek Wilderness recently filed a Motion for Sanctions against the Forest Service with the US District Court for the Southern District of Illinois. The motion addressed the agency's failure to comply with the ruling in *Glisson v US Forest Service* (2000), "to identify, cite and stop" damaging, illegal equestrian use in the Wilderness. The judge ordered the Forest Service to assess the environmental impacts of equestrian use arising from the commercial horse campground industry before deciding whether to issue Special Use Permits to campground owners. The agency claimed that it fulfilled the order by posting restricted signs near the area and filing monthly reports with the judge.

The Motion likewise targeted the Shawnee Trail Conservancy (STC), a coalition of equestrians and commercial campground outfitters who made it clear they would not sign Special Use Permits if issued. Through its attorney, STC argued that they were not responsible for equestrian damage to the Wilderness, as they did not physically deliver users to the area despite widespread advertising to the contrary. The judge disagreed, stating that the campgrounds were responsible for the actions of their guests.

Though the Court did not find either the Forest Service or STC to be in contempt, it did express its concern and stated its intention to "develop its own temporary court ordered Special Use Permit". The Permit would be implemented for one year (12/20/04 - 12/20/05) and would



*Grand Canyon Wilderness (proposed). WW file photo.*

work to "protect the environment in the Shawnee National Forest, not regulate anybody's business." After that time, the Judge warned that "there will be compliance or the hammer will come down." He further warned that he is recommending an increase in fines for violations by equestrians and all terrain vehicles from \$100 to \$1,000 because he believes the "FS doesn't have any teeth in its regulations."

## Grand Canyon National Park, AZ

**Poorly Planned** - The Grand Canyon section of the Colorado River is "recommended" Wilderness, and according to National Park Service (NPS) policy it must be administered as though it was designated Wilderness. NPS policy also dictates that land managers should "seek to remove" uses that do not conform to wilderness standards. Despite these mandates, the National Park Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Colorado River Management Plan fails to protect the natural conditions and wilderness character of the river. Instead, the plan caters to a handful of commercial concessionaires that provide noisy, crowded motorboat tours. Because of this motorized monopoly, thousands of people who wish to float the river at its own pace and enjoy the solitude Wilderness offers are unable to do so. Research reveals that the majority of river visitors prefer to travel with fewer than 20 people, encounter no more than 2-3 other groups/day, and encounter little or no mechanized noise.

The Management Plan was expected to resolve the long-standing access disparity between the general public, who must wait up to 20 years for a river permit, and the 14 commercial outfitters who have long been granted nearly 80% of all river access during the summer season. Instead, the NPS' preferred alternative proposes the following:

- **Group Size:** Commercial trips — 32 (reduced from 43), self-guided public trips — 16 (no change). Continues favoring profit and business interests.
- **Group Encounters:** Sets no limits on number of encounters.
- **Soundscape:** Allows commercial companies to continue using large motorboats on the river. Allows 2,000 helicopter landings in the river corridor each year.
- **Launches:** Changes number of daily trips launching in the summer from 7 commercial trips and 1 self-guided public trip (88% commercial) to 5 commercial trips and 1 self-guided public trip (83% commercial).
- **Allocation:** Maintains current number of commercial passengers launching from Lee's Ferry each year at 12,000, while increasing the total number of non-commercial public visitors on the river from 3,571 to 4,980/year.
- **Though Park notes that the natural soundscape in Grand Canyon is a "disappearing resource" and that protecting it is a top priority, the agency claims that discussing protection of the river's wilderness qualities is outside the scope of the plan. Instead, the plan emphasizes providing a "diversity" of recreational uses.**

To download the full plan, visit [www.nps.gov/grca/crmp](http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp). Comments must be received by **January 7, 2005**.

## Selway Bitterroot Wilderness, MT

*Trail Tussle.* - "Economy, convenience, commercial value, and comfort are not standards of management or use of wilderness" (USFS Manual). When the Forest Service decided to construct several hundred feet of wooden puncheon along a muddy section of trail in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, Wilderness Watch joined with Friends of the Clearwater in appealing the decision. Although muddy, there are no serious resource impacts that might justify installing a permanent structure in wilderness. The puncheon would merely make travel on the trail easier and more convenient. The Wind Lakes trail is one of three trails leading to a popular lake. The Forest Service plans to implement certain mitigation measures at the lake to reduce damage that is already occurring. Upgrading the trail for easier access would encourage even more use at the lake. The Backcountry Horsemen Assoc. also appealed the decision. They support the construction and challenge the mitigation measures that would affect campsite location and packstock grazing. The Forest Service has withdrawn its decision and will schedule a field trip with all appellants next August for on-site consultation.



## Changes in the New Year

— Glenn Marangelo, Development & Membership Coordinator

For those of you who have been members of Wilderness Watch for many years, I would like to test your memory. Think back to when the regular membership dues rate for Wilderness Watch last changed ... don't worry, I could not remember either.

Digging back through the archives, I found that Wilderness Watch's regular membership dues rate last changed from \$20/year to \$25/year back in 1995. A lot has changed during these past 9+ years: the challenges facing the preservation of our Wilderness heritage have become more varied and complex; the reach and impact of our efforts have grown tremendously; our national role and reputation as wilderness stewardship experts has grown and solidified; and our ability to coordinate with, reach out to, and engage others in wilderness management issues has greatly expanded. On every front, thanks to our members and supporters Wilderness Watch is a stronger, more effective organization.

The one thing that remains constant over the years is our annual membership rate. However, with the increasing

costs of "keeping the boat afloat" (costs of printing, rent, increasing litigation, etc) we now find it necessary to make a change here as well.

As of 1/1/05, our regular annual dues will increase from \$25 to \$30. However, in an effort to continue to keep our membership dues as affordable to as wide a range of individuals as possible, we will be keeping our "Living Lightly" membership dues at \$15/year. The Wilderness Watch Board of Directors and staff all strongly believe that it is better to have as many people involved and active as possible.

**Thank you to all of our supporters for your understanding of this necessary change.** Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.



# Help us keep it wild!

Deserts, mountains, hardwood forests, alpine meadows, swamps, prairie ... Wilderness comes in many forms. And so can your support of Wilderness Watch's efforts to protect America's Wilderness heritage.

Wilderness Watch is the only conservation organization fighting day in and day out to protect our National Wilderness Preservation System and Wild and Scenic Rivers System - assuring a wild tomorrow for future generations. But we can't do it without you!

Take a moment to renew your membership, become a member, make that special donation, or make a lasting commitment to Wilderness preservation as a monthly donor or with a memorial gift or bequest. Your support makes a lasting difference.

## Join Our Wilderness Legacy Donor Program!

Make donating easier, increase the impact of your giving, and help reduce administrative costs (allowing even more of your gift to go directly to our protection efforts) -- consider becoming a Wilderness Legacy donor today!

For as little as 33 cents per day, what amounts to daily spare change, you can make a difference for Wilderness each day. A monthly or quarterly contribution will automatically be transferred from your checking account or charged to your Visa or Mastercard. It's easy. It's fast. And no more renewal notices!

Call, write, or e-mail Glenn at (406) 542-2048 or [gmarangelo@wildernesswatch.org](mailto:gmarangelo@wildernesswatch.org) for more information.

## On-Line Donations

Want the simplicity of donating from your desktop? Then go to our secure on-line donation page at [www.wildernesswatch.org](http://www.wildernesswatch.org) to make a donation or renew your membership using your Visa or Mastercard.



WW file photo.

## Memorial Gifts and Bequests

Assure that the Wilderness lands that enrich your life remain forever wild. Consider Wilderness Watch in your estate planning. Memorial gifts and bequests provide long-term support for the protection of America's National Wilderness Preservation System -- leaving a wild legacy for future generations. Give us a call at (406) 542-2048 with any questions.

If you wish to make a provision in your will, the following general form is suggested:

*"I give, devise and bequeath to Wilderness Watch (FEIN 81-0457646), a Montana not-for-profit corporation, located on the date hereof at 208 E. Main St., 3rd Floor, Missoula, MT, 59802, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or specifically described property)."*

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

Here is an extra donation to help protect Wilderness!

\$30    \$50    \$100    \$250    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a member!

\$15    \$25    \$50    \$500    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Living   Regular   Contributor   Lifetime   Other  
Lightly

My check or money order is enclosed.

Please charge my:    Visa    MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date   \_   \_   /   \_   \_

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

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

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*(to receive our monthly e-mail update)*

**Please make checks payable to: "Wilderness Watch"**

**Mail to:**  
P.O. Box 9175,  
Missoula, MT 59807



# **OTE Wilderness Watch!**

**W**orking Assets selected Wilderness Watch as one of 10 national conservation organizations for inclusion on its 2004 Donations Ballot. This is an excellent opportunity to save on your long distance, mobile service, and/or credit card payments while making a difference for America's Wilderness!



The Working Assets donation program distributes an estimated pool of over \$3 million among 50 selected organizations working in a variety of fields. **Working Assets customers determine the distribution by vote - therefore the amount Wilderness Watch receives is contingent upon the number of votes generated.** Working Assets pays all administrative costs, so every dollar in the donation program goes directly to the selected organizations. Please place your vote today!

**If you are already a Working Assets customer**, you can vote for Wilderness Watch on the Donations Ballot provided in your monthly bill or online at [www.WorkingAssets.com/voting](http://www.WorkingAssets.com/voting).

**If you are not a customer**, please consider using Working Assets for your long distance, credit card, or wireless services. Working Assets donates 1% of its revenue (35 million since 1985) to nonprofit groups - at no extra cost to its customers! If you are not already a customer, it is not too late to support Wilderness Watch's efforts to ensure the protection and proper stewardship of lands and rivers included in the National Wilderness Preservation System and Wild & Scenic Rivers System.

To learn more about Working Assets or to become a customer, call 1-800-788-8588 or visit [www.workingassets.com](http://www.workingassets.com). **Thank you!**

**December 31st Deadline!**



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