WILDEST PLACE
Newsletter of the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation
SPRING 2016
The snow is melting in the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church Wilderness areas, spring is here and we are gearing up for a big season of wilderness trail projects! We’ve hired four professional Lead Wilderness Stewards and a skilled trail crew. We will soon finish selecting eight Wilderness Ranger Interns who will spend the summer working in the wilderness, opening trails, and protecting the natural character of wilderness. We are offering eight exciting volunteer projects and we invite you to join us! Please visit our website to learn more and sign up. www.selwaybitterroot.org

Speaking of volunteer projects, we want to thank volunteer extraordinaire Jim Heidelberger who finished his 10th project last season and is rarin’ to sign up for the eleventh.

There are many ways you can help us provide wilderness stewardship:

- Buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win an exciting, 5-day trip for two along the “Riviera of the West”, the Salmon River of No Return (pg 6)
- Join us for our Wilderness Gathering and Fundraiser in Hamilton, MT on April 9 (pg 3)
- Put a Wilderness license plate on your vehicle-Idaho residents only (pg 2)
- Become a member of SBFC (pg 8)
- Sponsor a 14-week Wilderness Ranger Intern

It was wonderful seeing all of our Central Idaho friends at the 10th Annual Clarkston Fundraiser! Thank you to Jane, Diane, Sarah and Connie, the SBFC “Wild Women”, for their hard work and another fabulous event! And thanks to Dennis Baird for a fascinating presentation on Idaho’s Oldest Wilderness Trail: the 10,000 Year-Old Southern Nezperce Trail.

Let the season begin! We look forward to hitting the trail with you!

Sally Ferguson
Executive Director

Upgrade to a Wilderness License Plate
$22 goes to the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation as a DONATION
You can upgrade ANY time!

Original design by Idaho artist Ward Hooper.
Plate is $35 the first year/
$25 for renewals.
SBFC receives $22 first year/
$12 renewals.
Order today at any DMV or on line at:
If your plates are not yet up for renewal, you may still order the Wilderness plates. Balance due is automatically computed based on your renewal date.

The Wildest Place is the membership newsletter of the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation. With the support of members, local businesses, and generous grantors, the SBFC is committed to connecting citizens and communities to assist in the stewardship of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, and surrounding wildlands.

Editing: Sue Webster
Design & Layout: Darci Thompson
Contributors: Sally Ferguson & Coby Gierke
Cover Photo: John Webster
www.webstermediahouse.com
Marble Creek Campground, Middle Fork of the Salmon

The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
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Where Are They Now?

This is the second installment of interviews collected from our Wilderness Ranger Interns. Diane Pettit, retired SBFC Board Member, spent several months contacting and corresponding with interns who are now college graduates and beginning their careers. Grateful for the experience, many have used the Wilderness Ranger Intern Program as a stepping stone in their current career path.

Shane Hetzler – Wilderness Ranger Intern – 2011

After his internship in 2011, Shane returned to the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies to finish up his master’s degree. He worked for the School Forester’s Office there, first as an apprentice forester, and later as the head of the Quiet Corner Initiative. This initiative was focused on building local capacity around sustainable forest management, small-scale agriculture, and renewable energy in a very rural and overlooked part of the state.

In 2013 Shane started Back Forty Forestry, LLC, a forestry consulting firm dedicated to sustainable land management in the Northeast. His clients range from private landowners to prep schools and land trusts, as well as many other folks. The diversity of projects in Back Forty’s portfolio includes ecological baseline studies, forest management plans, trail projects, and wildlife habitat improvements. Shane finds consulting both exciting and challenging, and is excited to be bringing on his first staff member in 2016.

Shane often relies on his experience as a Wilderness Ranger Intern. He is familiar with one of the paradoxes of wilderness and wildlands (managing something to look “unmanaged”). According to Shane it’s an important conversation starter with his clients who are interested in both the benefits and challenges to a “forever wild” style of land management. Shane uses many of the same field skills that he practiced at SBFC (map and compass work, cross-country travel, etc.) to accomplish his fieldwork in the backwoods of New England and New York.

Shane is grateful for his experience with SBFC, not only for the skills that he learned but the friends that he made. His experiences in The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness have left an indelible mark on how he sees land management as a professional, as well as knowing from experience how essential wilderness is to us as a society. He is anxious to get back to Moose Creek and fly fish for more Idaho Westslope Cutthroats.

Stay Connected with us ALL YEAR!

READ
Project blogs written by the SBFC interns. After each hitch, the interns post project reports, thoughts, observations from their latest wilderness experience. Sometimes funny, always informative, and occasionally thought-provoking, the interns do an excellent job of sharing their wilderness experience through the use of words and photos. To access the blogs go to: www.selwaybitterroot.org

GET THE PICTURE
See beautiful landscape photos from our projects. Sign up for Instagram feeds: selwaybitterroot

BE INFORMED
About upcoming events, projects, raffles and much more by “friending” us on Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/selwaybitterroot

STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX
Sign up to get emails that have hotlinks to volunteer opportunities, event ticketing, and much more. Send an email to: info@selwaybitterroot.org - Subject line “Sign me Up!”

10TH ANNUAL WILDERNESS GATHERING & FUNDRAISER
Saturday, April 9, 2016, 6-9pm

Hamilton City Hall Community Room
223 South Second Street
Hamilton, MT

SPEAKER:
Kylie Paul from Defenders of Wildlife

TOPIC:
Collecting data on the wildest critters in the Bitterroot
“Come Out and Give it a Try”
An interview with SBFC volunteer Jim Heidelberger

SBFC sees over 100 volunteers each season who devote a week or more of their vacation time to work with us in the backcountry. Jim Heidelberger is the first volunteer to knock out ten hitches, and did it over the past seven years. He’s already planning his 2016 trip. We are honored and fortunate to have Jim, and his partner Julie who joins occasionally, on our projects.

What got you started with the SBFC?
“I grew up in Detroit and built Pontiacs, decided to move to Northern Idaho in my 20’s. Did no camping as a kid, never was in the wilderness. Once I got to Idaho I started backpacking and loved it. Several years ago I met Jane Holman (an SBFC Board Member) who told me about the SBFC organization. Shortly after I met Jane I signed up for my first trip. It’s all her fault! It’s really great fun for me. It’s like a way to get away, be in the woods, and be around good people.”

Tell me about your first hitch – do you remember it?
“I sure do, it was out by Colt Killed Creek which is about an hour from the Powell Ranger Station. A lot of downed trees and a lot of crosscut sawing – it was real fun. The hike in was a steep uphill grade for about 2-3 miles. Even the young people were huffin’ and puffin’. It didn’t hurt that Sarah Walker (another SBFC Board Member) was our cook. It was like gourmet wilderness cooking, it was to die for. But the food is always good. They use dutch ovens, 4 burner stoves powered by propane tanks, they use a variety of things for cooking the meals. I was amazed at the young people and interns, they were smart, hard working, really respectful. It gave me hope for the future of the world. We can turn this (our future) over to these people and we’ll be OK. Once I did the first hitch I knew I’d be coming back. Some of the friends who’ve come out with me have come back 2 or 3 times.”

Julie chimed in – “I think the Interns are the best – they really are the best. These kids were so respectful. We took our direction from them, they taught us how to use the crosscuts, they taught us everything we needed to know. They even ran the early morning group yoga. They are just wonderful, I was very impressed.”

Jim -
“I work with new interns every season and I think they get good training before they get into the field. I don’t think most of the people who know the SBFC realize how much work goes into recruiting and training the interns.”

I sounds like you’ve been recruiting friends for these projects?
“It’s easy to recruit people. It’s something I’m really excited about. You go to the beautiful sites, there’s good people, good food. The work is hard, but if you get too tired you just sit down on a tree stump for a while and take a break and then when you’re ready get back into it. It’s so rewarding, at the end of the week you’ve accomplished a lot.”

Do you tend to recruit people from your age group?
“Old people? (chuckle) Actually this last group I recruited were ages 30’s, 40’s, 50’s, and 60’s. The SBFC makes it easy. They have the location selected, you just have to get yourself there.”

So is using a crosscut like riding a bike – once you learn the technique you don’t forget it?
“It’s sort of like riding a two person bike. It’s really a dance between the two people, it’s not hard, it looks hard but really all you’re doing is pulling. Both people pull. It’s really a lot of fun and it’s rewarding.”

What would you tell a person who’s considering volunteering?
“I would say come out and give it a try. You don’t have to be big and strong, you just have to try it. You have to be able to hike, you have to be able to carry at least a day pack and walk about 5 miles up and down hills. You can work at your own pace, if you don’t feel like sawing logs you can use laupers and do some clearing, you can help out around the camp site, there’s a lot of different things you can do.”

Thanks so much Jim. We appreciate your time, enthusiasm and your energy.
“I do it because it’s fun. I do it for the enjoyment.”

A big THANK YOU to Jim Heidelberger and all of our volunteers!
Trail work is the lifeblood of the SBFC. SBFC staff and volunteers participate in multiday trips in the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church Wilderness areas, hiking and maintaining trails. Wilderness stewardship is hard work, but ask any of our past volunteers and they will tell you it’s well worth the trip! Working as a team is one of the most rewarding wilderness experiences you can have. Please join us on one of our 2016 projects! Go to www.selwaybitterroot.org/2016-volunteer-trail-work to apply online.

July 2-4
St. Mary’s Peak Lookout Trail Opening-Bitterroot National Forest, MT
Come join SBFC and the USFS as we work to open the trail to the iconic St. Mary’s Peak Fire Lookout. Learn to use traditional tools such as crosscut saws and double bit axes to clear trees and brush from the trail. Work will be performed from 8-5 on the 2nd and 3rd, with a half day of work on the 4th. This is a great way to do some trail work above tree line in one of the most scenic areas of the state of Montana.

July 13-19
Marble Creek Trail Clearing-Payette National Forest, ID
Join us for a week long trail maintenance project on the Idaho Centennial Trail near Marble Creek. We will spend the week clearing downed trees that are currently choking the trail and repair tread in places where landslides or debris flows have left the trail impassable. With the help from the Treasure Valley Backcountry Horsemen volunteers and SBFC crew members will pack into a backcountry campsite in the western part of the Frank Church RONR Wilderness. From the camp volunteers and crew will work on the trail during the day and return to camp for dinner, lawn games and relaxation.

July 14-17
High Lake Trail Clearing and Repair-Bitterroot National Forest, MT
We will be clearing and repairing the long neglected Ligh Lake Trail in scenic Blodgett Canyon. This trail has great views and access to wild country that most hikers never explore. The towering granite cliffs and spires of Blodgett Canyon provide a truly spectacular backdrop for the work that needs to be done.

August 8-14
Walton Lakes Trail Sustainability Project-Nez-Perc/Clearwater National Forest, ID
Join SBFC for a 5 day project in the Walton Lakes and Savage Pass Trails near Tom Beal Park in the scenic northern section of the Selway-Bitterroot. We will be setting up a comfortable camp at the trailhead so bring your camp chair and extra pillow. First we will log out the trail, then begin building trail structures to control erosion and protect the trail for years to come. This project is a great opportunity to learn how to use traditional tools and understand trail structure construction.

August 28-September 3
Marble Creek Trail-Payette National Forest, ID
Join SBFC and our partner, Idaho Trails Association, to open this critical wilderness section of the Idaho Centennial Trail. This project will provide a great opportunity to learn how to use traditional tools and techniques to restore a trail that has been partially obliterated. We will use crosscut saws to clear and open several miles of Marble Creek Trail, accessed from the Thunder Mountain Trailhead in the Frank Church-River of no Return Wilderness. Supplies will be packed in by stock and all meals will be provided.

September 7-13
Backpacking Work Tour of the Northern Frank Church Wilderness-Bitterroot National Forest, ID
This is a one-way backpacking trip to the remote northern portion of the Frank. We will start at the Salmon Mountain Base Camp Trailhead and work our way to the Corn Creek boat launch. Mules and horses will carry a portion of the food, tools, and group gear that we will need to set up a comfortable camp each night. The daily hiking distance will vary, but may include some 10-12 mile days.

September 21-25
Stanley Hot Springs Trail Clearing-Nez-Perc/Clearwater National Forest, ID
Not to be confused with Stanley, Idaho, Stanley Hot Springs is in the northern part of the state. Picture this. Warm, sunny days spent clearing trails, restoring old campsites, and building trail drains followed by cool, clear evenings with someone cooking dinner to be served around the campfire. Topped off by a soak in the natural hot springs. This late September project is sure to fill up fast so don't wait!
Picture yourself and a guest spending a relaxed week with great company, dining on delicious food and in one of the most beautiful places on earth! Purchase **a trip for two** raffle ticket (or several) and you have a chance to do just that.

Row Adventures is our 2016 Grand Raffle River Trip donor. Thanks to this outfit for donating a fabulous trip down the Lower Salmon – trip name – “Riviera of the West”.

ROW Adventures is the life passion of owner Peter Grubb and his wife, Betsy Bowen. For over 36 years they have poured their heart and soul into creating adventure travel experiences that enrich lives and exceed expectations. Peter and Betsy have an intimate connection to every adventure they offer and have personally researched and developed all the vacation itineraries. While they began as an adventure travel company with a focus on white water rafting trips, they’ve grown to a company with an eclectic collection of adventures around the world.

**GRAND RAFFLE TRIP**
This year’s “Riviera of the West” trip is a classic “pool and drop” river meaning that at the end of each rapid is a slow moving pool of water inviting you to jump in for a swim. Stops along the way include historic sites such as Native American rock art, pioneer homesteads and Chinese rock houses. Wildlife is plentiful. Rafters get frequent sightings of golden eagles, mule deer, river otter and an occasional big horn sheep.

Put in is at Lewiston, and on the last day the rafts arrive at the confluence with the mighty Snake River in Hells Canyon. At that point there’s 20 miles left to go, through the tail end of Hells Canyon to the take-out place called Heller Bar where the Grande Ronde River joins the Snake.

For more trip details: [http://www.rowadventures.com/salmon-rafting.html](http://www.rowadventures.com/salmon-rafting.html)
To purchase your raffle tickets email info@selwaybitterroot.org or call 208-861-2010.
Winner will be announced at the Hamilton Fundraiser on April 9 @ 9:00 p.m.
To build a better and more sustainable community, you have to Dream BIG. The Boise-based Advertising Agency, Drake Cooper, are hopeless dreamers AND ambitious. They dream of a community where everyone shares the responsibility of making it a better place to work and live.

Drake Cooper established their annual Dream BIG program in 2009, to work with one ambitious non-profit organization each year to help develop a unique in-kind branding and cause marketing campaign. It is the Agency’s hope that their joint work with each charitable organization increases community awareness, understanding, and inspires action around an important cause.

Drake Cooper selected SBFC as their ambitious Dream BIG client for 2015. They provided a year’s worth of in-kind services focusing on brand identity, collateral materials and digital development.

THE ANCHORS: Amanda Jones, Brand Manager and Chris Watts, Project Manager helped to keep our feet on the ground through this entire process. These two folks gave us constant and unwavering guidance, inspiration and focus. And, along with others from Drake Cooper, left their cushy mattresses, pillows, and iphones to join us for a weekend project in the Frank. They KNOW what we do!

OUR NEW LOGO: Colleen Cahill, Drake Cooper’s Art Director, created the new SBFC logo (and also joined us in the Frank). Her description of the design is thus: Clean lines come together creating interesting shapes to form arrows, mountains, and trees. This represents the connection SBFC fosters between communities and business and the outdoors. The arrow speaks directly to providing access for the public into backcountry spaces. The “up” movement of the mark represents the positive mission of SBFC.

OUR NEW WEBSITE: Brad Weigle, Digital Director, oversaw website development, although many hands and minds were involved. In addition to staff hours, Drake Cooper’s summer interns got hands-on development experience and did a superb job! We love the look, feel, and “driveability” of our new website. We’re already seeing a marked increase in traffic and interest. www.selwaybitterroot.org

OUR RAY OF SUNSHINE: Dan Ronfeld is Drake Cooper’s Manager of the Dream BIG project. The first to greet us, the last to say goodbye, his behind the scenes work lit the way throughout the entire process.

THE VISIONARY: If it wasn’t for Jamie Cooper, CEO, and his commitment to community the Dream Big project wouldn’t exist. We are forever grateful for his ambitious goal to support non-profits and donate countless hours of staff time to create something new and effective for each organization.

We are proud, honored, and thankful to be among the “chosen ones” to receive the Drake Cooper Dream BIG award. Thanks to the team!

Outdoor Reading Series features the Frank

Many thanks go to authors Richard Holm and Kathy Deinhardt Hill for taking the time out of their busy schedules to share their stories from the backcountry at the Outdoor Reading Series events. The ORS is a collaborative effort between Rediscovered Books, a local Boise bookstore, and the SBFC. Both evenings were well attended and the topics fascinating. Watch our calendar on our website for more Outdoor Reading Series Events to begin again next fall.
FIELD WORK
Each summer we organize, transport, educate, feed, and manage crews and citizen volunteers for trail maintenance, wilderness monitoring, weed mitigation, cabin stewardship, and lookout hosting.

DEVELOP FUTURE LEADERS
Our internship program is a training ground for college students who will pursue careers that have a positive and lasting impact on wilderness and land conservation.

WILDERNESS AND PUBLIC LAND EDUCATION
Each year, with the Bitterroot National Forest, we host a Wilderness Skills Training Program for elementary school students. These students learn age-appropriate wilderness skills, such as “Leave No Trace”, and receive information that can translate to a lifelong appreciation of wilderness.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP LEVEL
☐ $30  ☐ $60  ☐ $120  ☐ $240  ☐ $600  ☐ $________

Send gift with this form to:
SBFC Foundation – PO BOX 1886 Boise, ID 83701

Monthly and one-time payment options are available on our website: selwaybitterroot.org/take-action/

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