PLEASE WELCOME our Newest Board Members

It’s an honor and a privilege to announce the addition of four new Board Members to the SBFC organization. Their geographical diversity and professional backgrounds will have a positive and lasting impact as we move forward.

Butch Harper
Ketchum, ID

Aimee Moran
Boise, ID

Lisa Ronald
Missoula, MT

Larry Swan
McCall, ID
Total revenue for the 2014 fiscal year was $522,969. Foundation & Government grants were $434,129. Events totaled $35,046. Support services were 21%.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2014
(for the year ending December 31)

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT
Foundation & Government Grants .................................. $434,129
Events ........................................................................... $35,046
Individuals & Memberships ............................................ $53,794
TOTAL REVENUE.......................................................... $522,969

EXPENSES
Program Services ............................................................ $385,475
Administration ................................................................ $72,758
Fundraising ..................................................................... $37,750
TOTAL EXPENSES......................................................... $495,983

Notes to Financial Statements:
The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

This financial information is drawn from 2014 audited financial statements by the accounting firm Presnell Gage, PLLC – Lewiston, ID

Questions: Sally Ferguson, ED 208-373-4381

Thanks to your generous support, the SBFC has been able to continue to build a dynamic, growing community of Wilderness stewards by engaging a broad community that includes businesses, recreationists, ranchers, students, and recent war veterans. Please reference pages 4-6 in this newsletter to get a feel for the magnitude of work we completed this year. You are the reason for our growth and success!

Sally Ferguson
Executive Director

Another successful and memorable Wilderness season in the history books. Each summer is special, this summer no different. It’s the complete package, hard-working and enthusiastic volunteers partnered with a Wilderness Stewardship mission in a location that is breathtakingly beautiful. It doesn’t get any better than that. Special thanks to Jim Heidelberger – Jim completed his tenth volunteer trip with us this year! Thanks to all who helped us conquer this summer with gusto!

The Jon and Hannah Binninger Family
The Renshaw Family
The American Hiking Society Group
The Sierra Club Group
National Smokejumpers Alumni Association
2015 Historic Ranger Station Hosts
2015 Lookout and Cabin Hosts
2015 Iowa Conservation Educators
All 99 Backcountry Volunteers
Valentin Hellmayr and Vivian Ly

Looking forward to next season when the adventures continue.

2016 EVENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1, 2015 – TUESDAY
Grand Raffle Begins

JANUARY 2016
Volunteer Projects Posted

JANUARY 19 - TUESDAY
Speaker Series – Bound for the BackCountry
Author – Richard Holm
Rediscovered Book Shop – Boise

JANUARY 30 - SATURDAY
North Idaho Gathering & Fundraiser – Clarkston Quality Inn

FEBRUARY 20 – SATURDAY
Montana Gathering & Fundraiser

MARCH 7 - MONDAY
Telluride Mountain Film – Kenworthy Theater – Moscow

MARCH 11 - FRIDAY
Telluride Mountain Film – Roxy Theater – Missoula

MARCH 15 - TUESDAY
Speaker Series – Spirits of the Salmon River
Author – Kathy Deinhardt Hill
Rediscovered Book Shop – Boise

APRIL –TBA
Boise Gathering & Fundraiser
Drawing for Grand Raffle

MAY 3 - TUESDAY
Give Local Missoula

MAY 5 - THURSDAY
Idaho Gives
SBFC 2014 Field Season Recap

SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS

April 7-22 — Early Season Moose Creek Area Trailwork. Greg Aerni spent an 8 day hitch with the MCC crew leaders, opening the Selway River Trail #4, all the way to Moose Creek Ranger Station. Once there, they constructed a bridge on E. Moose Trail #421 with the help of Anna Bengtson and Doug Olive.

April 20-24 — Campground Opening near Fenn Ranger Station. Ben Stein worked on opening the front country campsites near Fenn Ranger station. Ben removed trash from the sites, cleaned out and maintained the fire rings, and weed whacked brush away from site structures.

April 28-May 5 — Meadow Creek Trail Opening and Maintenance. Ben Stein and Greg Aerni accompanied 6 MCC crew leaders, logging out trail #726 to Meadow Creek Cabin. We spent some long, hot days, logging out over 150 trees and opening the trail 17 miles into a beautiful, well-used drainage.

May 7-15 — Staff Training at Lochsa Historic Station. The first four days were held at Lochsa Historic Station for staff training. The crew then worked on Sheep Creek Trail, and built a small rock retaining wall at Weir. And lastly, the crew brushed Colt Killed Creek # 50, Warm Springs #49, Mocus Point, and Lewis and Clark #25.

May 11-15 — Stock Use and Packing Training at Ninemile Ranger Station. Three members of SBFC staff had the opportunity to receive stock training at Ninemile Ranger Station.

May 18-26 — Front country work near Fenn Ranger Station. Moose Creek Trails Liaison, Ben Stein, cleared out and scouted four front country trails.

May 17-29 — Powell Front Country Work and Wilderness Skills Training. Powell Trails Liaison, Greg Aerni team taught Wilderness Stewardship training to Lolo 3rd graders and Florence 5th graders. Greg was able to clear trees and rock from a few local trails during week 2.

May 21-29 — Wilderness First Responder Training. The CFLR Trail Crew and the four Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest Wilderness Ranger Interns spent eight days completing an intensive Wilderness First Responder course at Lubrecht Experimental Forest near Potomac, MT.

June 2-10 — SBFC Wilderness Skills Training for Staff and Interns. The entire SBFC Staff and Wilderness Ranger Intern Teams converged upon Lochsa Historic Station for a week of skills based trainings. Courses included trail maintenance and standards, crosscut saw and axe use, wilderness campsite and character monitoring, defensive horsemanship and packing, and finally LNT and backcountry travel tips. The Renshaw and Benninger families were a valuable addition to our training program.

June 9-10 — SBFC Intern Training at Kootenai Creek. SBFC’s Wilderness Ranger Intern and Seasonal Staff teams attended a two day cross cut saw training and certification led by Jeff Halligan of the Idaho Trails Association. The crew practiced sizing up, cutting, and removing trees from the trail in a variety of conditions.

June 15-23 — Selway Trail Maintenance. The crew worked on Selway Trail #4 between Three Links Creek and Halfway Creek. Two days included retread work from Tango Creek towards Halfway Creek with intermittent brushing. After that they worked towards Three Links Creek for two days doing retread, brushing, and installing check steps in a heavily trenched out section of trail.

June 16-24 — Baker Lake, South Fork of Lolo Creek and Sweeney Creek. This beautiful lake gets heavy use. The crew dispersed 11 campfire rings and picked up trash. The top priority was to remove big logs from the trail. There were several spots where trees had fallen like dominos, making for tricky removal.

June 16-24 — Boulder Creek Trail Maintenance and Horse Camp Improvements. The crew cleared many of the local trails, making it out to Fish Lake Airstrip, Long Lake, Stanley Hot Springs, and the infamous Lone Knob trail.

2015 by the Numbers

7,530 trees cut out of trails
626 miles of trail maintained
115 campsites inventoried
2,419 pounds of trash removed
9,990 volunteer hours logged

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June 29–July 7 — Selway Trail #4 Maintenance. The CFLR Trail Crew and Moose Creek Trails Liaison Ben Stein, worked on Selway Trail #4. They started off the hitch chiseling and sledding rock to make the trail wider. They then hiked to Tango from Cedar Flats and did some brushing and retread work.

June 30–July 8 — Big Creek Scouting Project and St. Mary’s Peak Volunteer Project. During the two-day project, 14 trees were cut out of the trail, 187 drains were cleaned and four miles of trail brushed. The trail was cleared all the way to the famous St Mary’s Peak Lookout.

June 30–July 8 — Warm Springs and Wind Lakes Trail Maintenance. The crew cleared the Warm Springs trail then worked their way through Wag Meadows and went around McConnell Mountain. They then moved to Army Mule Saddle and worked up to Grave Peak. They exited through Kooskia Meadows.

July 10–September 18 — St. Mary’s Peak Lookout Hosting Program. Volunteers staffed the St Mary’s Peak Fire Lookout for a total of ten weeks. Chris Eyers, a local packer volunteered his time to pack goods and supplies to and from the lookout. Volunteers spent time making repairs.

July 14–19 — Big Sand Lake Volunteer Project. The crew spent a beautiful week working near the shores of Big Sand Lake with a large, hardworking group of volunteers. The trail up to Frog Lake was improved as was the area along the shore of Big Sand Lake.

July 14–21 — Elk Mountain to Marten Creek Trail Maintenance. 25 mile loop from Elk Mountain to the headwaters of Marten Creek! Cut and Run.

July 26–August 2 — South Fork of Big Creek Trail Clearing with AHS. SBFC partnered with the American Hiking Society (AHS) to clear 2 miles of S. Fork Big Creek Trail #118.

July 26–31 — IDAWA Volunteer Group at Wind Lakes. Patrick Johnson, a former Wilderness Ranger Intern (2014), lead a volunteer group from Iowa. The crew spent the hitch opening the trail to Wind Lakes before completing deferred maintenance projects including 6.5 miles of brushing and clearing 142 drains.

July 28–August 4 — Copper Butte and Cove Lakes Trail Maintenance. Work was split between Copper Butte and Cove Lakes, logging out a bunch of trail, including a nice backpacking route into the crags. Fires pushed the crew all over the place, but they got the job done.

August 2–8 — Big Creek and S. Fork Big Creek Trails Clearing with Sierra Club. The SBFC Programs Director and 15 Sierra Club volunteers put in more than 850 hours of work to brush more than one mile of the trail and clear 50 trees leading up to Packbox Pass from Big Creek Lake and the trail leading to the South Fork Big Creek Lakes.

August 10–15 — Bass Creek and South Fork of Lolo Creek Trail Work and Monitoring Project. This was the final mini-hitch for 3 of the 4 Bitterroot interns. The Bitterroot Crew spent 5 days hiked 22 miles, looping from Bass Creek back to S.Fork Lolo Creek.

August 7 — North Kootenai Lake Water Sampling. Claire Muller assisted with an annual water quality monitoring project at North Kootenai Lake. FS packer Karl packed a little inflatable raft 11 miles into the backcountry so she could paddle to the middle of the lake and gather water samples. The samples were then sent for analysis.

August 11–18 — Selway River Trail Tango to Cedar Flats. The CFLR Trail Crew worked on Selway Trail #4 between Tango Creek and Cedar Flats. Then they teamed up with the MCC immersion crew to do some retread and retaining walls in the area where the Meeker fire recently burned.

August 22–26 — UM Freshman Wilderness Orientation Project at Kootenai Creek. This year SBFC partnered with the UM Wilderness Institute to lead incoming freshmen on a wilderness service project. The students got a chance to learn how to use crosscuts and worked on clearing out the messy Kootenai Creek trail.

September 10–17 — Selway and Meadow Creek Trails Maintenance. This was Ben Stein’s first hitch back to work after getting briefly laid off due to fire activity. It started at Lochsa Historic Station assisting Connie Johnson with the closing of that station for the season. They then moved to Race Creek Trail head to work on Selway Trail #4.

September 10–18 — Old Man Meadows with MCC. Greg Aerni, spent a wonderful hitch deep in the backcountry, underneath the Selway Crags with a Forest Service crew, building structures and brushing a long-neglected section of Eagle Mountain Trail #206.

September 24–27 — Boulder Creek and Stanley Hot Springs Volunteer Project. Claire Muller and Greg Aerni worked on the Boulder Creek ford cutting plentiful logs out of the trail heading up to the Seven Lakes Area. Jim Heidelberger was back in action, as was Lee Harville.

September 22–27 — Indian Hill Trail Clearing Project. The CFLR Trail Crew worked from Indian Hill Trailhead #602 to Copper Butte, over Highline Lakes and back to Indian Hill.

September 22–30 — Swamp Ridge/East Moose Creek. Powell Trails Liaison, Greg Aerni, split his time between cutting out a trail up near Elk Summit on the beautiful Big Sand Creek.

October 6–13 — Trail #693 Maintenance. The CFLR Trail Crew worked down trail #693 to trail #405 for a cut and run hitch and came out on Selway Trail #4 during this cool and wet fall project.

October 6–14 — Elk Summit and Horse Camp Area Trail Maintenance. Powell Trails Liaison, Greg Aerni, split his time with MCC finishing up some good trailwork on the trail leading out of Elk Summit.

October 21–28 — Horse Camp Improvements. The SBFC Trail Crew and Greg Aerni did one last hitch at Horse Camp. Dug a large new latrine hole, put in enough firewood for next year and worked on Long Lake Trail #205 and Boulder Creek Trail #211. A wonderful close to a terrific season – warm cabin, good company.
June 20-28 — Yellowjacket Trail Improvement. Our main project was the construction of a turnpike across a meadow 2 miles north of Yellowjacket Lake.

July 3-10 — Middle Fork Trail Clearing and Improvement Volunteer Project. The crew worked to clear the Middle Fork of the Salmon River trail from the trailhead to Joe Bump Cabin. The trail was very choked with deadfall from trees burned years ago. The crew used crosscut saws, axes and other tools to clear the trail and improve tread conditions.

July 12-18 — Harrington Ridge Volunteer Trail Maintenance Project. The crew crosscut the 5 mile trail and then proceeded down Harrington Ridge Saddle trail no. 702 a quarter mile.

July 14-23 — Monumental Trail Clearing and Restoration. Two Payette Wilderness Ranger Interns worked with FS Wilderness Tech, Jen Mittelstadt and cleared 30 miles of trail on Lick Creek Trail, West Fork of Monumental Trail and the Main Fork Monumental Trail.

July 15-22 — Cache Lakes Basin Project. The crew logged out trail from the Sleeping Deer Lookout through the Cache Lakes Basin to Martin Mountain and down towards the Middle Fork. The Grouse Creek trail was cleared all the way to the junction of 097 before the Middle Fork Wilderness team completely lost the Grouse Creek trail. The Frank Church had taken back the trail.

July 17-19 — Painter Mine Clean Up and Restoration Volunteer Project. SBFC partnered with The Wilderness Land Trust on this project. The WLT purchased the Painter Mine site in 2013, for inclusion in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

July 28-August 6 — Lookout Mountain Ridge Trail Clearing and Tread Repair. Two Payette Wilderness Ranger Interns worked with USFS Wilderness Tech, Becca Acetos, on a trip into Lookout Ridge. The two-man WR Intern team spent most of their time clearing downed trees and accomplished a quarter mile of tread repair.

July 29-August 5 — White Creek Trail Clearing Project. The crew logged out Cougar Creek trail down the Middle Fork to White Creek and 4 miles up White Creek.

August 8-15 — Indian Creek Trail Clearing and Maintenance. Patrick Johnson, a former SBFC Wilderness Ranger, lead two Wilderness Ranger Interns and two volunteers on the final hitch of the season to log out the last sections of Indian Creek Trail 225. They made it to the intersection of Chief Creek and cleared 12 miles of trail.

August 17-21 — Tour d’Idaho Wilderness Ranger County Meetings and Wrap Up. Staff and Wilderness Ranger Interns traveled through the communities surrounding the FCRONR, meeting with Valley and Idaho County Commissioners, RAC committee members and citizens to talk about their season accomplishments, wilderness experiences and learning.
Forty two miles below Corn Creek on the south bank of the Main Salmon lies Campbell’s Ferry. A place where in 1897 an opportunistic homesteader, William Campbell, established a ferry to transport miners across “The Main” to the Thunder Mountain gold mining region. In 1988 the Trust for Public Lands purchased the homestead, and in 1990 sold it to a group of conservators – most notably Doug and Phyllis Tims and Brad Janoush. Their goal, to protect and preserve this unique slice of Idaho history.

The property, it’s gardens and it’s structures have become of labor of love and a way of life for Doug and Phyllis who spend summers on the homestead.

Doug describes 2015 as a “remarkable year”. For 15 years they have been working on a master restoration plan for the homestead, the most significant work happened this year. Many renovations on two buildings were scheduled for completion by mid-August. On August 13 lightning struck just above the property and the “Campbell Fire” took hold.

As Doug puts it, “The Forest Service did an excellent job of responding and protecting us from the fire. We also benefited from our work in 2010 to thin and clear around the buildings and install a water system under the Fire Wise program. We had 21 fire fighters living with us for almost three weeks. As soon as the rains start this fall it will start to green up, and next spring will be spectacular. We’ve not lost any of the large ponderosa pines around the property - mostly the dead standing snags. This will really cleanup the forest floor, making the Ferry even more fire resistant for the next one. There will always be a next one when you live in the woods where fire is a natural part of the ecosystem.”

If find yourself on the Main, make time for a side trip to Campbell’s Ferry, and a journey back in time. A slice of history has been preserved and continues to be protected.

Upgrade anytime to a Wilderness License Plate

Plate is $35 first year (SBFC receives $22)
Renewal is $25 (SBFC receives $12)
Available at your local DMV office!

Design by Ward Hooper

Tour d’ Idaho 2015

The final week of the Wilderness Ranger Internship Program is a traveling training session. The interns visit with advocates and politicians who have shaped and been shaped by Wilderness. Originating in Boise, culminating in Missoula, each day is a different stop, different topics, different people. The kick off to this year’s Tour d’ Idaho was celebrated with an End of Season BBQ for Interns, Volunteers, Board Members and Staff. A fitting way to finish the season.

Thanks to Murray and Nancy Feldman of Boise for hosting the interns over night at their home.
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.

PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF WILDERNESS
From $25 to a legacy gift, all contributions make a tangible difference towards the work we do.

ANNUAL MEMBER LEVELS
Vanity Lakes - $30  Wylie’s Peak - $60  Moose Creek - $120
Bighorn Crags - $240  Selway River - $500  Salmon River - $1,000
SBFC Benefactor – Donations above $1000
SBFC Legacy – Financial bequests and personal property.

Please Contact: Sally Ferguson, Executive Director
sferguson@selwaybitterroot.org

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/join

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION