



THE WILDEST PLACE

NEWSLETTER OF THE SELWAY BITTERROOT FRANK CHURCH FOUNDATION



SPRING 2021

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JOHNSON**
2006 - 2018



SELWAY BITTERROOT
FRANK CHURCH
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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 Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation assists the Forest Service in providing stewardship for the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church River of No Return Wildernesses and surrounding wildlands through boots on the ground work, public education, and partnerships.

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COVER IMAGE: Location: Nez Perce-Clearwater
National Forest

The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation
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FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As I look around my yard I see and hear sounds of spring. Crocus have come and gone, daffodils and hyacinth currently add color to my yard, and the trees are flowering. Each morning I wake to a cacophony of birds, starting their day with the sounds of hope. The snow on the Boise foothills has receded to the highest points.

And so it goes with the SBFC cycle of life. Tools are being dusted off and sharpened. Summer trail projects are being finalized with our USFS partners. Seasonal personnel are being hired and Wilderness Ranger Fellows selected. And when weather permits, we will be on the trails we love, ready to clear fallen trees and make repairs as needed.

New this year will be Wilderness education incentive grants from our recently funded Connie Saylor Johnson Wilderness Education Fund. Read the story on page 6. This fund is a first for SBFC and amplifies the Wilderness education objective of our mission statement.

Follow the work being done by our staff and Fellows this summer as they blog about their experiences on the trail. We will continue to post regular updates on our website and Facebook. Your memberships, sponsorships, Wilderness license plate purchases, volunteerism, and attendance at events keeps us a boots on the ground organization. We dig in to get the work done so you can enjoy accessible Wilderness trails during the summer season. Thank you for your continued support.

See you on the trail,



NANCY R. FELDMAN
Board Chair

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Spring!

I hope this note finds you well and looking forward to a summer filled with the gatherings and celebrations that were missed, surrounded by all of those who missed you.

We are thankful to have 2020 in our rearview mirror and are looking towards this year with great expectations and renewed energy. We have a full season of volunteer projects planned and have hired 10 seasonal staff plus 12 Wilderness Fellows to be assigned to the Nez Perce-Clearwater, Bitterroot, Salmon-Challis and Payette National Forests.

Starting with National Trails Day on June 5, and wrapping up on September 25 with National Public Lands Day, we have scheduled volunteer trail projects that will include 1 and 2-day trips as well as multiday-projects. As always, we also look forward to seeing our cabin and lookout volunteer hosts throughout the season.

We are so grateful for all our volunteers in all capacities of service. In addition to their tireless work on trails, maintaining cabins or providing necessary fire spotting, they help us build connections and spread the wilderness message to hikers and outdoor enthusiasts on trails and in communities. Social media the Wilderness way!

I'm especially happy to announce the formalization of this enthusiasm on the Bitterroot National Forest: the St. Mary Trailhead Volunteer Ambassadors. The Ambassadors will welcome hikers at the trailhead and educate them about safety and Leave No Trace, plus provide Lookout and Wilderness history. Take a look at page 7 of this newsletter for more information. You can learn more and register to be an Ambassador, trail volunteer, or cabin/lookout host at <https://www.selwaybitterroot.org/volunteer>.

2021 is a new year, with fresh perspectives. I am forever grateful for you, our devoted supporters, and our dynamic Forest Service partners. We are all in this together. As a cohesive Wilderness community with a common mission, we can accomplish so much! I've missed you all and am eager to see you on the trail!



SALLY FERGUSON
Executive Director

WELCOME, IAN DAVIDSON

PROGRAM MANAGER

Ian is based in the SBFC Program Office in Missoula, Montana. He began his work in Wilderness as an intern for the 2014 National Wilderness 50th Anniversary and the first annual National Wilderness Workshop. Ian graduated from the University of Montana with Bachelors of Science in Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Management and Resource Conservation. He has worked on trail crews in Northwest Montana, the backcountry of California, and most recently for the Lolo National Forest in the Scapegoat Wilderness. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Society of Wilderness Stewardship. After working in research and the private sector, Ian is excited to join SBFC.



FUN FACT

“My favorite memory in the Selway is hiking into Moose Creek Guard Station at the end of March with a co-worker from the Seeley Lake Trail Crew. It was the off season and I was on spring break from my job as a school bus driver. We did close to 50 miles in 3 days. It was a great time seeing the Selway River and luckily we only ran into snow at the guard station. Nothing beats a good early season trip to shake the dust off.”

BUY A PLATE!



SUPPORT WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP IN IDAHO!

PLATE FUNDS SUPPORT SBFC AND THE WILDERNESS WORK WE DO.



JOIN US! JULY 12th 6 - 10PM MST

Kegs 4 Kause at Payette Brewing, Boise ID
50% OF PROCEEDS FROM BEER SALES WILL
BE DONATED TO SBFC





MEET OUR 2021 SEASONAL STAFF



MONICA STAPLETON



LEAD WILDERNESS STEWARD
Payette NF

Growing up in Wisconsin, Monica spent her younger years roaming the woods. She has worked as a canyoneering guide in Southern Utah and a youth conservation corps crew leader. Most recently, Monica has worked as a USFS wildland firefighter with the Payette National Forest. She is happy to start her first season with SBFC, working in the Frank Church Wilderness.

LAUREN SIMMS



LEAD WILDERNESS STEWARD
Salmon-Challis NF

Lauren grew up outside of Philadelphia. She found her love for trails in Yosemite, where she was a youth corps member. In 2019 Lauren served 14 weeks as a SBFC Wilderness Ranger Fellow in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, her first experience in capital-W Wilderness. We are very happy Lauren has returned and will be working on the SBFC Frank Church Wilderness crew.

MEGHAN RORICK



WILDERNESS STEWARD
Salmon-Challis NF

Meghan grew up in East Texas, but had family in Missoula and fell in love with Montana at an early age. Since graduate school at University of Montana, Meghan has worked for environmental education and watershed health groups in Montana and Oregon. Meghan loves to explore trails and is excited to work for SBFC, where she can contribute to the protection and conservation of the wild places that mean so much to her.

KRIS PESCI



TRAIL CREW
Nez Perce-Clearwater NF

Kris hails from New Jersey and grew up backpacking throughout the backcountry of the eastern states. He moved west in 2018 and has worked as a river guide in southern Utah. Kris is captivated by western landscapes and excited to spend the season in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

COREY DADDS



TRAIL CREW
Nez Perce-Clearwater NF

Corey is "a corn sprout from Bloomington, Indiana." He learned to love the outdoors playing in the acreage behind his childhood home and working at summer camps as mountain biking director and trail maintenance supervisor. Corey went to college in Vermont and earned a degree in Renewable Energy and Ecological Design. He believes wild spaces should be protected and preserved so that generations to come can enjoy the transformative power of time spent in the wilderness.

JAY MAJERSKY



TRAIL CREW LEADER
Nez Perce-Clearwater NF

Jay moved to Montana in 2017 where he worked trails along the Magruder Corridor. He fell in love with Missoula and with Wilderness work. Jay has worked with the USFS in Montana and Arizona. He enjoys running a crosscut saw and his connection to a little-known piece of American heritage.

CLINT KINGERY



LEAD WILDERNESS STEWARD
NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NF

Clint grew up in Helena, Montana. He first discovered his love for Wilderness while working on trails in the Sawtooth Wilderness. He has also worked in the heart of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and knows the Moose Creek area well. Clint is uncompromisingly passionate about Wilderness.

TIFFANY HALL



TRAIL CREW
Nez Perce-Clearwater NF

After Tiffany graduated from the University of Louisiana Lafayette, she worked on conservation crews in Utah and Montana. She has always had a passion for the outdoors, but it was time with the conservation corps that opened her eyes to the importance of conservation. Tiffany believes wilderness is a sacred, beautiful place and it is everyone's civic duty to make sure it stays that way, especially for future generations.

KARLISSA SKINNER



LEAD WILDERNESS STEWARD
BITTERROOT NF

Karlissa spent her summers hiking and camping around Helena, Montana. Her youth corps experience doing trail work and living in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness helped her to discover her love for the natural world and wilderness conservation. Karlissa is an avid rock climber, backpacker, and river rafter.

2021 VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

Hit the trails with SBFC this summer and join one of our many volunteer stewardship projects! Enjoy the great outdoors while learning about the fundamentals of Wilderness trail maintenance and primitive tool use. Projects range from easy to strenuous. Pull on your boots and join us for an unforgettable backcountry experience! Visit our website at <https://www.selwaybitterroot.org/2021-volunteer-trail-work> to register today.



JUNE 5TH

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Bear Creek Trail, Bitterroot National Forest



JUNE 23RD-30TH

UPPER MIDDLE FORK TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Middle Fork Trail, Salmon-Challis National Forest

Project Full! Join our Waitlist



JUNE 26TH

LOLO PASS VISITOR CENTER BOARDWALK REMOVAL

Lolo Pass Visitor Center, Nez-Perce Clearwater National Forest



JULY 2ND-4TH

ST. MARY PEAK TRAIL CLEARING

St. Mary Peak, Bitterroot National Forest

Project Full! Join our Waitlist



JULY 13TH-19TH

HIGH LAKE & HAUF LAKE TRAIL CLEARING

Blodgett Canyon Trail, Bitterroot National Forest

Project Full! Join our Waitlist



JULY 21ST-28TH

FRANK CHURCH-RIVER OF NO RETURN TRAIL MAINTENANCE

TBA, Salmon-Challis National Forest



SEPTEMBER 1ST-8TH

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN RIDGE TRAIL

Thunder Mountain Trailhead, Payette National Forest



SEPTEMBER 25TH

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Project #1: Roaring Lion Creek, Bitterroot National Forest | Project #2 Split Creek Trailhead, Nez-Perce Clearwater National Forest

CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY WITH SBFC!

WHERE:

Bear Creek Trail,
Bitterroot National Forest

WHEN:

June 5th, 2021 9am-3pm

Register at <https://www.selwaybitterroot.org/national-trails-day-2021>

Have you been wondering what trail work is all about? Are you looking for a fun and rewarding way to kick off the summer hiking season? This is a great opportunity to learn about the tools and techniques used to maintain trails while spending the day outside.

Join SBFC staff and volunteers at the Bear Creek Trail #5 on the Bitterroot National Forest. We will perform annual maintenance on the first few miles of this popular 14-mile trail. There will be potential for a group of volunteers to join SBFC staff in clearing the Bear Creek Overlook Trail #126 as well.

We will have a task for everyone! You can choose to brush vegetation back to widen the trail corridor with loppers, clean any leaf litter and rocks from drains with a shovel, use a crosscut or hand saw to clear any downed trees in the trail, or redefine tread with a pick-mattock.

SBFC will provide lunch, snacks, and cold beverages.

CONNIE SAYLOR JOHNSON WILDERNESS EDUCATION FUND UPDATE

In 2019, SBFC established an endowment fund for wilderness education to honor the memory and service of Connie Saylor Johnson (1941-2018) and her career devoted to involving youth and teachers in wilderness stewardship.

Connie Saylor Johnson was a beloved friend, teacher, mentor, mother, and life-long educator. She was the first field staff member of the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation when it was established in 2006 and was instrumental in the creation of SBFC's Wilderness Ranger Fellow program. She joined the SBFC board in 2009 after retiring as a wilderness ranger and remained on the board until her passing in 2018.

The Connie Saylor Johnson Wilderness Education Fund enables the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation to provide incentive grants for educators and educational organizations to incorporate the stewardship of wilderness and natural ecosystems into classroom and/or outdoor curriculum. This fund will support wilderness education for future generations by providing teachers and educational organizations with incentive grants for wilderness education.

Connie believed in the power and necessity of Wilderness education. Her passion for getting people into Wilderness brought generations of students into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness; as SBFC Wilderness Ranger Fellows, project and cabin volunteers, and eternal Wilderness advocates.

We are thrilled to announce that, because of your support, 2021 will be the inaugural year of grant designations through the Connie Saylor Johnson Wilderness Education Fund. Grant applications open May 1st, 2021 and the first round of grants will be distributed in February of 2022. To learn more about Connie Saylor Johnson and the Connie Saylor Johnson Wilderness Education Fund, visit our website at: selwaybitterroot.org/csjwef-grant.





VOLUNTEER FOR THE SAINT MARY TRAILHEAD AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

SELWAY BITTERROOT FRANK CHURCH FOUNDATION

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Help SBFC build a community of responsible wilderness trails users!

**SATURDAYS IN JULY & AUGUST
9 AM - 3 PM**

VOLUNTEERS WILL GREET VISITORS, ANSWER QUESTIONS, AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ON WILDERNESS, LEAVE NO TRACE PRACTICES, AND TRAIL TIPS. VOLUNTEERS WILL WORK IN TEAMS OF 2 FOR 3-HOUR SHIFTS.

CONTACT: KRISSEY FERRITER, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
VOLUNTEER@SELWAYBITTERROOT.ORG | (406) 721-8500
SELWAYBITTERROOT.ORG/VOLUNTEER





Selway-Bitterroot Foundation INC
 PO Box 1886
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2020-2021 Annual Sponsors



PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF WILDERNESS

YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS:

Wilderness stewardship for the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness areas and the SBFC Wilderness Ranger Intern Program.

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 secure website: selwaybitterroot.org/donate



SELWAY BITTERROOT
 FRANK CHURCH
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Name: _____

Please charge my credit card one-time.

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Zip: _____

Email: _____

Signature _____

Gift Amount: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT

REMEMBER THE SELWAY BITTERROOT FRANK CHURCH FOUNDATION IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS

We hope you will consider the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation in your estate planning. Memorial gifts and bequests are placed in a special fund so that these gifts can permanently support wilderness protection in the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness areas.

We welcome your inquiries about bequests and other kinds of giving. Please call or email Sally Ferguson, 208-871-1906, sferguson@selwaybitterroot.org.

If you wish to make a provision in your will, we suggest the following general language:

"I give, devise and bequeath to the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation, a Montana non-profit corporation (Federal tax ID# 27-2868220) located at 322 E. Front Street, RMRS Ste. 401, PO Box 1886, Boise Idaho, 83701, the sum of \$_____ or _____% of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate [or \$_____ if specific amount]."