



THE WILDEST PLACE

NEWSLETTER OF THE SELWAY BITTERROOT FRANK CHURCH FOUNDATION



SPRING 2023

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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.

EDITING: Caitlin Straubinger

DESIGN & LAYOUT: Kelsey Selis

COVER IMAGE: 2022 Volunteers on the St. Mary Peak Trail in the Bitterroot National Forest, Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Longer days, warmer temperatures, baseball, tulips, and a new class of Wilderness Ranger Fellows: all signs that summer is near! SBFC will again be hiring 12 Fellows this season. We have a diverse group, representing nine different states. These young people, mostly college junior and seniors, will spend 14 weeks training and working in the beautiful Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness areas. Many will go on to become the conservation leaders of tomorrow. You can meet these Fellows on page 4. Take a few minutes to check it out; they are truly inspirational.

As I have mentioned in a previous newsletter, the SBFC board of directors developed a strategic plan about a year and a half ago. This is a working document that outlines our short and long term goals and guides our efforts. After many years of hard work from staff, board, volunteers, and donors, we are in a strong place programmatically and financially. But there is still much work to be done. Over the next couple of years, the board of directors is firmly committed to achieving the goals set out in our strategic plan. This will mean increasing the number of crews we put to work in our four National Forests, translating to more miles of trail cleared, more trash removed, more partnerships forged, and more damaged trails repaired. This is the crux of our mission.

Along with nine other volunteers from Moscow, I am already signed up for a weeklong trail project this summer in the Frank. This is always the best week of my summer. Please consider signing up for a trail project (check out the volunteer opportunities on page 3), supporting a local SBFC event, getting a Wilderness license plate for your car, or helping out in whatever way works best for you. We all need to work together if we want to preserve access to our Wilderness areas for future generations.

Thanks for being a part of the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation.

JIM HEIDELBERGER
Board Chair



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings!

I'm excited to take this opportunity to introduce myself in this issue of the Wildest Place! I hit the ground running as executive director of the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation in February and look forward to meeting more of you, our members, supporters, and partners, in the near future.

My connection to the mountains and the American Wilderness experience began as a young kid in Northern California where I grew up in Redding. I was fortunate to be gifted these experiences by a very bold mother, who took her four children, all under eleven years old, on backpacking trips in the Yosemite backcountry all by herself. I owe her a debt of gratitude for who I am today. After these formative experiences, the path of my life has been continually intertwined with our wild lands.

During my career I've been able to compete around the world as a professional ultra runner. I've worked for outdoor guide services leading trail running, backcountry skiing, and mountaineering trips. I started a few businesses, from building a remote team of trail running coaches, to hosting multi-day guided fastpacking trips, to creating a ski mountaineering race from scratch. Over the past five years I've served on the board of Siskiyou Mountain Club, helping to build wilderness and trails stewardship programs, working as the volunteer board treasurer for the past three years.

My wife Natalie, our two sons, and baby daughter moved to McCall from Ashland, Oregon in February. This is a big change for us, but it's exactly the challenge we are looking for. It is a great honor and great responsibility to take over this role and to help shepherd SBFC into a new era of growth and continued stewardship of America's greatest wilderness lands in the Frank Church and Selway Bitterroot. My goal is that my children's children's children will be able to seek adventure, solitude, and refuge from an ever-changing world in these lands, just as we do today. For them to look at a map covered in trails and know these paths are open to them and as wild as ever for generations to come.

RYAN GHELFI
Executive Director



2023 VOLUNTEER PROJECTS



Join SBFC on one of our single or multi-day trips in the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness areas to maintain and open trails for public access.

Projects range from easy to strenuous. Lace up your boots and join us for an unforgettable backcountry experience!

Visit www.selwaybitterroot.org/volunteer to learn more and register!

JUNE 3 | NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Nez Perce-Clearwater
National Forest: Colgate Licks

JUNE 21-28

Salmon-Challis National Forest:
Horse Creek Hot Springs

JULY 7-9

Bitterroot National
Forest: St. Mary Peak

AUGUST 2-9

Payette National Forest:
Upper Marble Creek



AUGUST 16-23

**WOMEN'S
PROJECT**

Salmon-Challis
National
Forest: Upper
Yellowjacket Creek



SEPTEMBER 1-3

Bitterroot National
Forest: Hauf Lake

SEPTEMBER 23

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Bitterroot National Forest: Roaring Lion



2023 WILDERNESS RANGER FELLOWS



SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS



HANNAH RICHTER

Gonzaga University | Major: Environmental Studies

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Hannah adores nature and good adventures! She grew up in Southern California and used to be a caretaker and lacrosse coach. Hannah is passionate about the wilderness and nature because of the connection she has to the natural world. One of Hannah's goals in life is to try to help others find this connection for themselves in hopes for a better society and world.

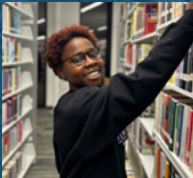


REYNA RODRIGUEZ

Western New Mexico University | Major: Forestry & Wildlife

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Reyna is a communicative, friendly individual who enjoys camping, fishing, and hiking. Reyna is currently studying at Western New Mexico University and is majoring in Forestry and Wildlife. Reyna found her love for the outdoors at a very young age and has followed that passion ever since.

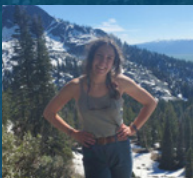


PRISCA HERMENE

College of Idaho | Major: History & International Political Economy

NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

Prisca is a Congolese-Black American, who received their first breath from the second lungs of the earth, otherwise known as the Congo Rainforest. They lived their childhood in Uganda, Isingiro district, on the local lands of Nakivale, a refugee settlement camp. They grew up playing in the childish muds of the rain and making up games along the open grasslands of Lake Nakivale. From Congo, to Uganda, to Boise, interacting and caring for the land remains vital to Prisca's life. Prisca strives to engage in cross-cultural community learning and collaborative efforts to bring about social change. As a fall 2022 intern for SBFC, Prisca found the opportunity to create a more captivating, inclusive, and rigorous history of federally designated wilderness lands. With a passion for equitable education, Prisca is excited to contribute to the expansion of public knowledge regarding wilderness history, current land management philosophies, and existing laws and regulations. Prisca's diverse educational background in history and public policy gives her an ability to present the various intersections involving public land management. Now, the Wilderness Ranger Fellowship allows them the opportunity to practice everything they have learned on the ground in collaboration with others.



OLIVIA HINDS

Gonzaga University | Major: Biology

NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

Olivia grew up in Star, Idaho and has always been an avid outdoor lover who likes to ski, climb, and run. Her experience includes working on a snorkel crew survey team with Idaho Fish and Game, trip leading, and researching salamander courtship gland morphology. After meeting two wilderness rangers in the Frank Church last summer, she was inspired to become one herself. She is interested in giving back Idaho's public lands that she has spent so much time recreating on growing up through her passions of land management and outdoor education.



2023 WILDERNESS RANGER FELLOWS



RYAN MURPHY

University of Utah | Major: Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

Ryan grew up in Fairfield, New Jersey far from the outdoors. He had little work experience before joining SBFC but has always been passionate about the environment. Growing up he would take annual ski trips to Colorado and summer trips to Wyoming. This sparked his interest in all things outdoors and eventually landed him at the University of Utah. With his Parks, Recreation, and Tourism major he hopes to continue exploring the country and serving the environment in every way he can.



KIERAN WILDER

Montana State University | Major: Environmental Science & Sustainability Studies

2023 WARREN MILLER FELLOW | NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

Kieran grew up in Moscow, Idaho and spent much of his childhood backpacking in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness where he developed his love for the outdoors. Kieran studied Environmental Science and Sustainability Studies at Montana State University where he furthered his passion for environmental protection and gained knowledge in wilderness policy and management. Kieran's enthusiasm for wilderness comes from his recognition of the positive impact that wilderness areas have on people and his desire to protect them for future generations. Kieran is very excited to work with SBFC as a Wilderness Ranger Fellow and gain knowledge and skills in wilderness trail work and stewardship.

FRANK CHURCH-RIVER OF NO RETURN WILDERNESS

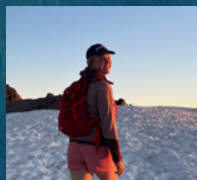


JERSEY HOOVER

Northern Michigan University | Major: Criminal Justice & Wildlife Conservation

SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

Jersey is a senior at Northern Michigan University where she studies Criminal Justice and Wildlife Conservation. She plans to enter the DNR as a Conservation Officer after graduation. Jersey grew up participating in outdoor activities and took a particular interest in bowhunting at a young age. She now spends most of her time in the backcountry on hunting or backpacking trips. Her great interest in wilderness conservation and desire to explore the western states led her to join the 2023 SBFC Wilderness Ranger Fellowship crew!



HEATHER PENDLETON

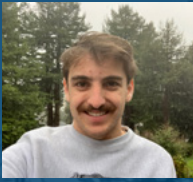
California State University, Chico | Major: Environmental Science

SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

Heather grew up in Truckee, California. Throughout her adolescence, Heather had many opportunities to participate in community-led land stewardship work, which fueled her drive to make a positive impact on the place she called home. Her love for the outdoors compelled her to pursue a bachelor's degree in environmental science at California State University, Chico where her focus was ecology and fire. Heather's big life goals are to spend as much time as possible outside, to try lots of different things, and to relish the feeling of being alive. She hopes to continue her formal education after gaining more hands-on experience and is excited to see what else a life connected to nature has to teach her.



2023 WILDERNESS RANGER FELLOWS



JULIAN BRASTOW

Lewis & Clark College | Major: Environmental Studies

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST

Julian grew up in the San Francisco Bay area. While living there, he spent a lot of time with his family going camping and exploring the outdoors and hasn't stopped since. Julian recently graduated from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, with a degree in Environmental Studies. He was a trip leader for the College Outdoors program, leading groups of students on outdoor trips in the Pacific Northwest. Julian maintains a strong respect for public lands and wilderness areas and is stoked to spend a summer with SBFC exploring and learning about how to be a great steward to these beautiful places.

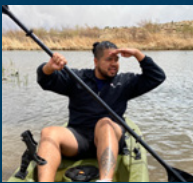


ARIEL CENTENO

Florida International University | Major: Sustainability & the Environment

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST

Ariel grew up in the suburbs of Miami, FL. He became interested in the outdoors after going camping for the first time in early high school. After that trip, he made an effort to go as often as possible, and now has an internship working in south Florida's wetlands. He is excited to join SBFC and work in wilderness.



MICHAEL SANCHEZ

Arizona State University | Major: Conservation Biology

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST

Michael was raised in Arizona, where he became very fond of the landscapes provided in such a dry state. However, when traveling and living in Calgary, Alberta, he found a love for pine, creeks, and moss that grows on north facing rocks. He's also found a love and importance in conservation of all species through hiking, backpacking, and spending plenty of time around animals. His coursework for a bachelors degree in Conservation Biology has allowed him to piece various experiences together and to give him a deeper perspective on why we must protect our environment. Exploring his roots as an indigenous person has guided him the embodiment and the appreciation for the land and what it provides to us as a species.



ENZO SANTARONE

Boise State University | Major: Environmental Studies

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST

Enzo was born in Boise, Idaho, and was raised immersed in the outdoors with experiences like sailing, hunting, and fishing with friends and family. Through his experiences in the outdoors, Enzo has fostered a connection with and love for nature. He hopes to contribute to the work that allows others to find this same connection.



BUY A PLATE!

SUPPORT WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP IN IDAHO!

PLATE FUNDS SUPPORT SBFC AND WILDERNESS TRAIL ACCESSIBILITY

MORE ABOUT THE WILDERNESS RANGER FELLOWS

Since 2009, SBFC has been sending college students from across the country into the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness areas for the summer to learn wilderness stewardship and management skills. SBFC makes an investment in all Wilderness Ranger Fellows, providing them with a monthly stipend, three weeks of rigorous training (including Wilderness First Responder, crosscut saw, stock pack training), summer housing, use of high-quality traditional tools, and more.

Please consider supporting the Wilderness Ranger Fellowship with a donation. Your gift allows us to expand the opportunities and offerings for students across the country and supports the next generation of wilderness and conservation leaders. Learn more at www.selwaybitterroot.org/donate.



ST. MARY TRAILHEAD VOLUNTEER AMBASSADOR

Help SBFC build a community of responsible wilderness trail users!

WHAT:

To educate trail users about trail safety, responsible trail use, and Leave No Trace principles at one of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area's most popular trailhead!

WHEN:

Saturdays and Sundays in July and August. 3-hour or full-day shifts.

No experience necessary! Training will be provided.
www.selwaybitterroot.org/volunteer





2023 SBFC STAFF BIOGRAPHIES



CONNOR ADAMS

Lead Wilderness Steward

NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST | SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS

Connor has been a wandering Wilderness person for almost a decade now. After some years overseas and a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail, he made his way to Montana and immediately fell in love with the wild places of the Northern Rockies. He has worked in The Bob Marshall Wilderness, the Gros Ventre Wilderness, and spent four years with SBFC in the Selway Bitterroot and Frank Church.



DYLAN BARKER

Lead Wilderness Steward

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST | FRANK CHURCH-RONR WILDERNESS

Dylan grew up in Indiana where he was introduced to most things outdoors at a young age. While attending college, his interest in public land and the outdoors grew into a passion. Dylan moved to Missoula in 2021, and worked two seasons on a trail crew. He developed a love for service in the form of trails conservation. He is excited to spend the summer connecting with Wilderness and sharing his knowledge with others. There are few things in life that bring Dylan as much joy as being able to live and work out of some of the most scenic areas in the country.



ALEXANDER GORDON

Lead Wilderness Steward

SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | FRANK CHURCH-RONR WILDERNESS

Alex grew up 45 minutes outside of Washington D.C on a wooded plot of land with streams, hills, and wildlife. He had a formal introduction to wilderness and conservation in college while attending West Virginia University. Alex has now spent 3 trail seasons working in Utah, Colorado, and finally Montana/Idaho. The wilderness has given him so much through the experiences he has had that he wants to continuously give back not only to the wilderness, but the communities around it.



IAN HARRIS

Lead Wilderness Steward

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST | SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS

Ian moved from Philadelphia to Missoula in 2010 to attend the University of Montana, from which he earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration. He fell in love with the wild spaces of Montana and Idaho, and spent three seasons leading youth trail crews. After a year with the DNRC Fire Bureau, he traveled the county in a camper van with his wife for two years to support her professional disc golf career. When not in the woods or on the disc golf course, Ian can be found at the Roxy Theater, playing tennis or board games, or reading a good book.



KARLISSA SKINNER

Wilderness Volunteer Project Liaison

SELWAY-BITTERROOT & FRANK CHURCH-RONR WILDERNESS

Karlissa is a Montana native who was instilled with a love of nature at a young age. In addition to spending time outside with plants, she enjoys traveling, cooking, reading, and yoga. Her passion for Wilderness stewardship was realized when she was immersed in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness for three weeks with her conservation corps family in 2020. This will be her third season with SBFC and second season working with volunteer partner groups. She is inspired by the energy and passion that volunteers bring to the trails and is looking forward to another fulfilling season taking care of our beautiful, wild lands.



2023 SBFC STAFF BIOGRAPHIES



JANE WORLEY

Trail Crew Leader

NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST | SELWAY-BITTERROOT & FRANK CHURCH-RONR WILDERNESS

Growing up in Connecticut, Jane always loved nature and started backpacking in 2015 by hiking along the Appalachian Trail. When they moved to Missoula in 2017, they discovered the trail world, conservation, and the meaning of Wilderness, subsequently falling in love with the inherent majesty of the untrammelled and rarely explored parts of the country. Over the course of the last seven years, they have had the chance to work in nine different Wilderness areas across Idaho, Montana, and Arizona. The Selway has a special place in their heart and they are excited for what another season will bring.

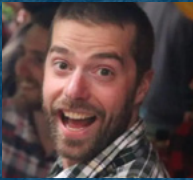


HENRY KELSO

Trail Crew

NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST | SELWAY-BITTERROOT & FRANK CHURCH-RONR WILDERNESS

Henry grew up in Asheville, NC, where he had access to lots of outdoor recreation in the Southern Appalachians. He and his family hiked often. Henry spent five months in 2021 on a trail crew, where he gained good trail experience. He is currently a research technician at NC State and has done some field work collecting data. He feels that Wilderness is a unique way to connect people to the outdoors and contribute to conservation.



PETER ZIMMERMAN

Trail Crew

NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST | SELWAY-BITTERROOT & FRANK CHURCH-RONR WILDERNESS

Pete grew up in New England and discovered a passion for the wilderness in the White and Green Mountains of New Hampshire and Vermont. He moved west after college, living as a ski bum and working as a wilderness guide, where he built and rehabilitated trails in the Tongass National Forest.



JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Have a passion for Wilderness? Love doing work to conserve public wildlands? Enjoy providing young people opportunities to gain hands-on experience in the backcountry? SBFC's board is committed to the mission of assisting the Forest Service in providing stewardship for the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses and surrounding wildlands through work on the ground, public education, and partnerships. Our board stretches from Moscow to Boise to Missoula. Consider learning more about our board, what we accomplish and what is entailed in being on the board of the SBFC. For more information about board work contact Jim Heidelberger at jimheidelberger@gmail.com.



Photos from Grangeville Elementary School's wilderness program, funded by a 2022 CSJ Grant.

CONNIE SAYLOR JOHNSON WILDERNESS EDUCATION GRANT AWARDEES

SBFC is excited to announce the second round of Connie Saylor Johnson Wilderness Education Grant awards to seven organizations! In 2023-2024, the Connie Saylor Johnson Wilderness Education Fund (CSJWEF) will provide support to the following projects focused on wilderness stewardship:

1

Salmon Valley Stewardship, Salmon, ID - "Salmon Valley Experts in the Field: Wilderness Connections"- A one-day field experience that leverages the background and knowledge of local historians, wildlife biologists, ecologists, Indigenous leaders, and environmental advocates with field trips in the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

2

Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association, Stanley, ID -- "2023 Sawtooth Wilderness Trailhead Portals Project"- A naturalist is stationed at one of several popular trailheads that access the Sawtooth Wilderness. They share area information, location-specific Wilderness regulations, and Leave-No-Trace practices with an emphasis on disposal of human waste, food storage, and campfire regulations.

3

Opt Outdoors School, Bozeman, MT - "Opt Out Wilderness Stewardship Project"- The project will formally integrate Leave No Trace practices into the curriculum and experiences of Opt Out students with the mission of cultivating lifelong, skilled, and passionate stewards of the wilderness.

4

Polk County Conservation Youth Corps, Granger, IA - "Polk County Youth Corps - Finding Wilderness"- Underserved teens from Des Moines will participate in a land stewardship project in partnership with the Black Hills National Forest and the Black Elk Wilderness Area. Participants will learn Leave No Trace ethics and natural and cultural history of the area.

5

University of Montana, Missoula, MT - "Wilderness Pack Trip"- The Wilderness pack trip is a 5-day, two credit experiential learning course for ten University of Montana students in the summer of 2023. This class includes one day to learn horse and mule packing at the USFS Ninemile Ranger station, a trail maintenance day, and many other hands-on wilderness skills such as cross cut, first aid and Leave No Trace camping.

6

Waterloo Schools, Waterloo, IA - "Driftless Wilderness in Iowa"- This project will allow students to learn about and visit the "Driftless" Area of northeast Iowa. Students will learn about geology and ecology, cliff vegetation, and talus slopes within the Yellow River State Forest and Effigy Mounds (a National Monument).

7

B.E.A.R., Hamilton, MT - "Wilderness Connection Days" - Outdoor-based mentoring and summer programming for 4th-12th grade students that incorporates wilderness education and stewardship.

To learn more about the grant program and apply for the third round of grants, please visit www.selwaybitterroot.org/csjwef-grant



Selway-Bitterroot Foundation INC
 PO Box 1886
 Boise, ID 83701

2023 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 Fellow 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
 FOUNDATION

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Please charge my credit card one-time.

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Expiration Date ____ / ____ Three Digit Code _____

Zip: _____

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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 Ryan Ghelfi 530-949-4928, rghelfi@selwaybitterroot.org.