



SELWAY BITTERROOT
FRANK CHURCH
FOUNDATION

THE WILDEST PLACE

Newsletter of the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation

FALL 2018





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FRANK CHURCH
FOUNDATION

Fall 2018

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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 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.

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Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness
PHOTOGRAPHER: Aaron Theisen

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From the BOARD CHAIR



Trails End. Remember that bone tired, “Whew, at times I wondered how I was going to make it,” feeling you experience as you arrive at camp after hiking a long and arduous trail? And then as you lighten your load, catch your breath, and survey the surroundings, you slowly feel a genuine elation in reflecting on what you’ve accomplished. Well, that’s what your Foundation staff, crew, and directors are feeling this year.

Now is the time to reflect on how far we’ve come and what we’ve accomplished. Our membership has steadily grown, Idaho Wilderness (SBFC) license plate orders are taking off and the plates can be spotted in communities all across the state, attendance at our Telluride Mountainfilm festivals in Boise and McCall continue to grow, more folks have discovered and contributed on our “Donate” webpage, community meet and greet events have been held in Idaho and Montana, grand raffle ticket sales were strong, attendance at our Clarkston fundraiser was huge, and we’ve received ongoing support for our Wilderness Ranger Internship program.

We are proud of the youth groups we worked with this summer - two IDAWA groups and a group of six students from the Bronx. Our hard-working crews and volunteers provided public access to the Selway Bitterroot and Frank Church Wildernesses by cutting over 14,000 trees and clearing and repairing just over 500 miles of trail.

Finally, our crews were not displaced by wildfires, they returned healthy and happy, and many volunteers asked about doing it again next year! So, like any good Wilderness user, what do we do at trails end? Why, we start thinking about our next adventure! With your ongoing help and support I’m confident 2019 will be an even greater year.

Ed Krumpe
Board Chairman

From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



How do I sum up another SBFC “filled to the brim” season of stewardship accomplishments in the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church Wilderness areas? With a shout-out to the people who made it happen!

To our 156 spirited volunteers, returning and new, many who traveled from all over the country; to our eight spunky, college-age Wilderness Ranger Interns who served for 14 weeks and gave 4,400 hours to wilderness stewardship; to the dozens of adventurous high school students from Iowa and the Bronx who experienced wilderness for the first time ever; and to our skilled stock packers—including a genuine cowboy poet! Together, they contributed over 14,000 volunteer hours! Their energy sparked new friendships and heartfelt connections to wilderness. Thanks also to our valued Forest Service partners, for their leadership and commitment. And thanks, of course, to our SBFC staff who worked tirelessly and cheerfully through the season leading volunteers, mentoring youth, and were darn good sawyers too.

It is with profound sadness that I must relay the news that in October our wilderness community lost a dear friend and wilderness champion, Connie Saylor-Johnson. Connie was a founding board member of the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation and led some of our first volunteer projects. Her commitment to wilderness, education, and volunteerism enriched the lives of generations of students, particularly the groups she helped recruit from her home state of Iowa. Many of these students have returned to become SBFC interns and volunteers. Connie’s vision for SBFC and her dedication to the organization led to the accomplishments SBFC counts today. She has been an inspiration for me, our staff, and our board members. We are committed to making sure Connie’s beautiful legacy will live on through our wilderness education and volunteer programs. Early in the new year we plan to fully honor Connie and her contributions.

Sally Ferguson
Executive Director

2018 SEASON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**"The crew leaders were great,
back country wonderful,
and the food good!"**

**138 campsites
inventoried**

**1.25 miles
of tread
repaired**

**14,296 hours logged
by volunteers**

**14,483 trees
cut from trails**

**159 feet
of rockwork
constructed**

**871 drains cleaned
17 reconstructed**

**149 pounds of
trash removed**

**510 miles
of trail maintained**

**"I liked the fact that we got to learn
more about trails and what goes into
creating and maintaining them.
Learning how to crosscut was super fun."**

**"Big Creek Lake was spectacular,
but honestly, I enjoyed the entire
experience. Our leaders were fantastic
– so positive and energetic!"**

**"The friendly staff and
interns made for enjoyable
work and a relaxing time."**

THANK YOU to our 2018 back country volunteers. You were an enthusiastic and energetic bunch. We appreciate all that you accomplished and learned; from using a crosscut, restoring trail tread and cleaning drains, hosting historic cabins, to prepping mouthwatering meals. You were and are essential to maintaining the integrity of these wild and precious places. Thank you for all that you do.

Chris Adkins	Everly Eldeen	Scott Koehler	Margie Paige
Samuel Agyei	Karen Eldredge	Steve Krone	John Park
Emma Anderson	Chance Elliott	Amanda Kuehn	Dennis Pearson
Katy Andres	Ella Mae Elliott	Brian Kuehn	Colin Pfund
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Bo Duggan	Brenton Kidder	Caleb Ottoson	Howard Wiley
John Duggan	John Kinevich	Frances Owen	Joe Williams
Shomarri Edwards	Thomas Klein	Jeff Padgett	Steve Wilson

NEZ PERCE/CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

April 30-May 4: Selway Trail, Meadow Creek, Gedney Creek; general maintenance

June 1-5: Selway Trail; general maintenance

June 12-20: Boulder Creek Trail; general maintenance

June 12-20: Stanley Hot Springs/Seven Lakes; general maintenance

June 12-20: Musselshell OHV Trails; general maintenance

June 26-July 3: Big Sand Lake, Hidden Lake; general maintenance

June 26-July 4: Storm Creek, Siah Lake; general maintenance

June 25-July 4: Meadow Creek, Surprise Creek; general maintenance

June 9-July 16: Selway Lodge Bridge Reconstruction

July 10-17: Hidden Lake; general maintenance

July 10-18: May Lake, Bailey Mountain ; general maintenance

July 24-31: Isaac & Maple Lakes; general maintenance

August 1-8: Trail #206 general maintenance

August 7-15: East Moose Drainage; general maintenance

August 7-15: Moose Creek area general maintenance

August 7-16: Lost Horse Area Campsite Monitoring

August 21-29: East Moose Creek Drainage general maintenance

August 21-29: Trails #602 and 438; general maintenance

September 4-11: Battle Ridge Trail; general maintenance

September 4-11: Windy Saddle; general maintenance

September 19-26: Colt Killed Creek; general maintenance

September 17-25: Shearer; general maintenance

October 2-10: Colt Killed Creek; general maintenance

July 21-28: Sierra Club: SBFC Staff, interns and 12 Sierra Club volunteers camped at Big Sand Lake and worked on clearing downed trees, brushing from the junction of Little Dead Elk trail up to Blodgett Pass, and also fixed tread as needed. Ready Outfitters graciously provided pack support for this project as well.

August 20-29: Catrock Youth/Sierra Club ICO: SBFC staff led 6 youth volunteers with the Catrock Youth Academy from the Bronx, accompanied by 2 adult leaders to work on brushing, cleaning drains, and fixing tread on the first 2 miles of the East Moose Creek Trail #421, and the first 2 miles of Bear Creek Pass trail #613. The group had a lovely time car-camping at Schumaker campground while enjoying the peace and solitude that Wilderness provides.

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

June 2: Bass Creek Volunteer Project, National Trails Day

June 12-18: Bad Luck Creek; general maintenance and campsite monitoring

June 27-July 2: Nelson Lake, Chaffin Creek, Boulder Point & Baker Lake; general maintenance and campsite monitoring

July 6-8: St Mary Peak Volunteer Project, general maintenance

July 25-30: South Fork Big Creek Volunteer Project; general maintenance

August 7-10: Roaring Lion; general maintenance and campsite monitoring

September 3-10: Harrington Ridge Volunteer Project; general maintenance

BITTERROOT NF PARTNER PROJECTS

July 17-22: American Hiking Society: SBFC staff and interns led 9 volunteers with the American Hiking Society up Big Creek. Backcountry Horseman graciously provided pack support both in and out of camp. Base-camp was located about ¼ mile up the So. Fork of Big Creek trail. The crew worked to clear trees from the base of the lake to Packbox Pass.

July 25-30: Private Volunteer Club: SBFC staff and interns led a private group of 8 volunteers up the South Fork of Big Creek. The crew worked to clear trees and re-establish a trail with extensive brushing to open the trail corridor. This trail hasn't been cleared in many years and we are looking forward to continuing to revive it in 2019.

SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

June 13-21: Upper Middle Fork & Fall Creek Trail; general maintenance

June 26-July 2: Upper Middle Fork Volunteer Project; general maintenance

July 10-17: Josephus Lake Trail; general maintenance

July 25-August 2: Waterfall Trail & South Fork of Waterfall Creek; general maintenance

July 24-August 1: Marble Creek Volunteer Project; general maintenance

August 8-16: Trapper Creek Trail; general maintenance

August 8-12: Warm Springs Trail & Upper Yellowjacket Trail; general maintenance

August 23-30: Craggs Campground to Panther Creek Trail; general maintenance

September 5-11: Middle Fork Trail; general maintenance

September 18-26: West Horse Point; general maintenance

October 3-10: Camas Creek Trail & Dry Gulch Trail; general maintenance

NEZ PERCE/CLEARWATER NF PARTNER PROJECTS

June 18-25: National Smoke-Jumpers Association: 6 volunteers with the NSA worked on the historic residence cabin at Lolo Pass. They performed a variety of tasks including staining the outside and replacing the old chinking on the building.

July 13-18 and 25-31: IDAWA: This year we had two groups of high school students from Dallas and Johnson counties in Iowa join us again. Chris Adkins led his group to Wind Lakes where they cleared trees and cleaned up campsites. Kristen Morrow led a group to work on clearing downfall up Colt Killed Creek. These students from Iowa leave Montana with an incredible experience in Wilderness under their belts.



This summer has changed the course of my future.....I loved the work, the people, and of course the mountains.
- Justine Bright



I was able to explore gorgeous glacial lakes and pristine wilderness, work alongside wilderness professionals and volunteers, and, as cheesy as it sounds, learn a whole lot about myself. I'll never forget the beauty of the Bitterroot.
- Talitha McGuire



Being in the Wilderness has taught me so much and I will be forever grateful that I had the opportunity to immerse myself in the backcountry and protect our natural resources.
- James Myers

The Hills ARE Alive.....



Under the category of “yes this really happened this summer”, St. Mary Lookout volunteer Sheryl Olson (in photo bottom left) was beyond surprised when she spotted seven nuns in full habits (which BTW, they wear all the time) about to summit the St. Mary Peak. While on a ministry tour through Montana, the nuns took a vacation day to hike to the lookout. We’re talking 2,500 feet of elevation gain in 3.5 miles - with wind – think about it.

But do they sing you ask? Ah yes! They go by the group name, “The Singing Nuns” and perform for various community events throughout the year, but their favorite time to sing, according to Sister Mary Angela, is “for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass because we know that it is all for God’s glory”.

The Singing Nuns are from St. Michael’s Convent, located on Mount St. Michael, just north of Spokane, WA. For more information on this rugged and talented group of women you can visit their website which is appropriately named www.singingnuns.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JANUARY

Early January – Projects & Dates Announced

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 2 – Clarkston Fundraiser

MARCH

March 3 & 4 - Telluride Mountainfilm on Tour - Valley County Festival

Two days - different films each day

Sunday, March 3 – Roxy Theater, Cascade 3pm matinee

Monday, March 4 – Alpine Playhouse, McCall 7pm



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER – John Lloyd

John lives in Ketchum, ID and after 55 years of construction work and 40 years as owner of Lloyd Construction, Inc. he now claims “retired” status from the custom home construction business. He has spent many a winter enjoying Bald Mountain and serving on the mountain’s ski patrol team and as the Forest Service Assistant Snow Ranger. John summarizes his relevant experience as having hiked the Centennial Trail through the Frank and Selway. John knows the Main and Middle Fork of the Salmon River from the paddler’s perspective and has explored the vast Wilderness of the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank by way of the Magruder Road.



2018 Youth Volunteers

Led by Will Merritt, SBFC, six youth volunteers with the Catrock Youth Academy in the Bronx, accompanied by adult leaders Colin Pfund and Peter Healy, went to work brushing, cleaning drains, and fixing tread on the East Moose Creek Trail #421 and Bear Creek Pass trail #613. New Wilderness advocates for life!



Will Merritt – Powel Trails Liaison and crew



Catrock crew heads to work



from subway to solitude-westward ho!



Chris Adkins – IDAWA Group

Each year we are so fortunate to have high school students from Iowa join us for a week-long project. This year we had two groups - lucky us! We affectionately call them the IDAWA group. Some of the students have been so inspired they've returned a few years later as Wilderness Ranger Interns or adult volunteers. It's a memorable experience for everyone involved. Thank you Chris Adkins and Kristin Morrow for recruiting and organizing!



Kristen Morrow – IDAWA Group

Merry Christmas to Mark and Lisa Szentes



Jill Nebeker, SBFC supporter, was searching for that perfect Christmas gift for her employer. Jill hit the jackpot when she purchased raffle tickets for our ROW ADVENTURES River Raft fundraiser – and won! Jill gifted the winning tickets to her employer and his wife, Mark and Lisa Szentes, Boise, ID. Mark and Lisa booked their trip for the Lower Salmon with donor ROW Adventures, and had a marvelously good time. Thank you ROW ADVENTURES for the donation. And congratulations to Mark and Lisa on their uniquely Idaho trip!

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

2018-2019 Annual Sponsors



PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF WILDERNESS

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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

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



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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]."