

# Swan View's News

Fall 2008



Swan View Coalition  
3165 Foothill Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

*"Nature and human nature on the same path."*

[www.swanview.org](http://www.swanview.org)  
[www.swanrange.org](http://www.swanrange.org)  
swanview@swanview.org

## *We're All in This Together: Federal, State, County, Private*

There is no question we are in for some economic hard times - times which can either pull us apart or help us pull together. This issue of Swan View's News looks at the positive aspects of cooperation between individual citizens and their collective voice in county, state and federal government.

Private individuals, some members of Swan View Coalition, have granted easements across their private land to provide public access to the likes of McWeneger Slough and the Flathead River adjacent to Columbia Falls. Others have granted easements locally to allow wildlife to safely cross busy highways, and a citizens' initiative will appear on Flathead County ballots November 4 to establish a \$10 million bond to protect our clean water, access to the outdoors, and to provide incentives for family farms and timberlands to remain intact. (page 2).

Your public comments and pressure on the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to modify its Foothills Timber Sale resulted in greater protection of old-growth forests, hiking

and ski trails, wildlife, and stepped-up enforcement of prohibitions against off-road vehicles, as well as better utilization of logging "waste" (page 3).

We've more than doubled our Swan Ranger email alerts list since distributing our flyer in June and July, and we wel-

come all newcomers to become full-fledged members of Swan View Coalition by making at least an annual contribution to support our work and public involvement initiatives (pages 6 and 7).

We'll be discussing these matters and electing officers at our annual membership meeting November 9, so please plan to attend (page 6).

Lastly, don't forget to make a donation or take the Swan

Trek Pledge as a way to sustain both your health and Swan View Coalition. Your contributions up to \$4,000 will be matched by a grant from Cinnabar Foundation (page 7)!

Thank You!



We are individually and collectively responsible for our personal health, public health, and the health of planet Earth.

Keith

## *Generosity Benefits People, Water, Fish and Wildlife*



*Keith Hammer photos*

The photo above is the view of the northern Swan Range and Flathead River recently granted the public through a generous trail easement by Dr. Loren Kreck, a longtime protector of wilderness, believer in public health and access, and long-standing member of Swan View Coalition. It is hoped that more easements will connect the Kreck Riverwalk Trail with South Nucleas Avenue in Columbia Falls, at the left-rear of the photo, with the Old Red Bridge at the right.

Not unlike Dr. Kreck's generosity in sharing his private property with the public, Jan and Sandy Whitney are placing their entire 189-acre farm under a conservation easement in order to share it in perpetuity with an elk herd. The elk are having trouble safely following their historic migration route from the Swan Range to the Flathead River across the increasingly developed Flathead Valley bottom and Highway 206.

The Whitney's also donated the \$21,000 paid them by the Montana Department

of Transportation to widen Highway 206 through their farm toward the new \$165,000 elk underpass seen in the photo below. Indeed, when MDOT came up nearly \$50,000 short of federal funds for the underpass, a number of individuals and conservation groups, including Swan View Coalition, made up the difference in contributions.

An increasing number of people recognize the need to protect the public benefits that arise from private land and the need to sometimes compensate the private land owner for those benefits. To this end, Flathead County voters will have the opportunity to approve a \$10 million bond on their November 4 ballot. The bond would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$18 dollars a year, a small price readily recouped in gas saved by not needing to drive to more distant recreational access should we allow all nearby recreation access to perish. Learn more at [www.flatheadlandandwater.com](http://www.flatheadlandandwater.com) and be sure to vote November 4!



## *DNRC's Foothill Timber Sale in Review*

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's Foothill Timber Sale could have been an unmitigated disaster. It is now largely finished and you can rest assured your comments helped limit the damage and moved DNRC to make good commitments to the area's future.

Comments from Swan View, its members, and others resulted in the following protections:

1. No logging was done along the Echo Broken Leg Trail, as was initially planned.

2. No logging was done in old-growth forests, most groves of mature western hemlock forest were spared, and the local DNRC manager has said he doesn't intend to log those hemlock stands in the future in order to retain biodiversity in the area.

3. Work was done during and after logging to restore hiking, biking and ski trails already in existence and heavily used.

4. DNRC has funded a "recreation warden" who is actively enforcing DNRC's long-standing but previously ignored prohibitions against the use of motor vehicles off-road and target shooting near homes.

5. The majority of the logging slash has been chipped and is being hauled to help fuel the Smurfit-Stone pulp mill in Missoula, rather than burned on-site as waste.

All of these protections often require litigation to achieve but, through the persistence of Swan View Coalition and its members, this timber sale was substantially altered to accommodate the concerns of nearby residents and others that enjoy the Foothills Road area for heart-healthy recreation in unique western hemlock forests.

Use of motor vehicles off-road or on closed roads, firearms shooting within a quarter-mile of homes, and other illegal activities on DNRC lands should be reported to warden Ben Chappelow at 406-250-2098 or [bchappelow@mt.gov](mailto:bchappelow@mt.gov)



*Keith Hammer photos*

Huge slash piles being chipped for fuel rather than burned as waste and needlessly fouling air quality.



DNRC is finally enforcing the law to secure habitat for wildlife and heart-healthy recreation.



Skiing among western hemlock in Krause Basin.



Great views from the Swan Crest are a sure bet!

Keith Hammer photo

## *Take the Swan Trek Pledge! For Fun, Fitness, and Fund-Raising!*

Here's a way to help fund our work while getting healthy exercise and avoiding the purchase of another trinket to clutter your home!

1. Use the Virtual Trek chart, below, and the map on page 5 to "virtually hike" the 70-mile northern Swan Crest from the Bob Marshall Wilderness to Columbia Falls.
2. The "miles you hike" can be miles you hike, walk or bike anywhere, laps of swimming, hours on your favorite gym equipment, or whatever you choose.
3. Pledge a dollar per "mile," or whatever you can afford, as a donation to Swan View Coalition's work protecting the Swan Range and other public lands.
4. Ask your friends to pledge funds to match the exercise "miles" you are keeping track of, or to make a similar pledge for their own exercise "miles."
5. When you've "hiked" the 70-mile northern Swan Crest, or whatever amount you are able, make your tax-deductible contribution as outlined on page 7 of this newsletter.

You can also learn more about the natural and cultural history of the Swan Range as you "hike" along. Simply go to [www.swanrange.org](http://www.swanrange.org) and click on the Virtual Trek near the top of the page.

Next, click on the Virtual Trek Map and then on each Mile-Post for photos and information about each location.

What a great way to exercise, learn, and help us continue protecting the very lands you'll be learning about!

| Check-Off                                                                           | Mile-Post | Location                 | Miles To Next Post |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------|
|  | 0         | Inspiration Point        | 5                  |
|                                                                                     | 5         | Gildart Peak             | 2                  |
|                                                                                     | 7         | Thunderbolt Mtn.         | 11                 |
|                                                                                     | 18        | Bond and Trinkus Lakes   | 4                  |
|                                                                                     | 22        | Hall Peak/Sixmile Mtn.   | 2                  |
|                                                                                     | 24        | Quintonkin Road          | 5                  |
|                                                                                     | 29        | Broken Leg Mountain      | 7                  |
|                                                                                     | 36        | Crater Lake              | 3                  |
|                                                                                     | 39        | Birch Lake               | 2                  |
|                                                                                     | 41        | Mount Aeneas             | 3                  |
|                                                                                     | 44        | Wildcat Lake             | 2                  |
|                                                                                     | 46        | Strawberry Lake          | 3                  |
|                                                                                     | 49        | Peters Ridge             | 2                  |
|                                                                                     | 51        | Lamoose Lake             | 5                  |
|                                                                                     | 56        | Jenny Lake               | 3                  |
|                                                                                     | 59        | Doris Mountain and Lakes | 4                  |
|                                                                                     | 63        | Columbia Mountain        | 7                  |
|                                                                                     | 70        | Highway 2 Columbia Falls | Done!              |



For a full-color, interactive version of this Virtual Trek map, go to [www.swanrange.org](http://www.swanrange.org) and click on Virtual Trek near the top of the page.

## *Annual Membership Meeting November 9 Business Meeting, Pot Luck, Music Jam!*

Swan View Coalition will hold its annual general membership meeting on Sunday, November 9 at the home of Keith Hammer and Pam Willison, 3165 Foothill Road (look for an iron sculpture of a man holding a Kamp Keith sign and #3165).

We will elect officers and conduct business from 4pm to 5pm, then have a pot-luck dinner followed by our regularly scheduled Swan Range Community Music Jam Session. Folks are welcome to come for any part or all of the doings, which we've combined to save on driving and fuel for folks normally involved in both Swan View business and our community initiatives like hikes, dances and jam sessions.

Current officers are Keith Hammer - Chair, Julie Bates - Secretary, and Carol Buchanan - Treasurer. Having moved further into the digital age and expanded our electronic

Implementing this provision with affordable minimum dues would clarify there are additional benefits to being a paid-up member, while underscoring that we de-



*Keith Hammer photo*

The relationship between our homes, health and wildlands is clear in this photo from Crater Notch.



A Swan Range Community Jam

*Bob Muth photo*

communications network, we need to discuss whether to implement provisions already included as an option in our bylaws that would require "members" to be paid-up in "dues" in order to vote on Swan View business and elections.

pend heavily on individual contributions to fund the work we do. While our Swan Ranger hikes, dances and jam sessions are conducted by unpaid volunteers, for example, our monitoring of public land management activities, management of our email database, preparation of action alerts and newsletters, and research for essential lawsuits require a high level of expertise and fair compensation - not to mention payment of attorney fees and court costs.

In keeping with our tradition, we will on November 9 discuss how best to make it clear that, while we can offer many community and conservation services as volunteers, we also need to maintain a level of membership dues and/or contributions to cover our overhead, court, and contracting costs - then follow up with some great food, fun and entertainment! Hope you can make it!

***What You Can Do:***  
***Help us Match our Cinnabar Foundation Challenge Grant!***  
***Your Donation Will be Doubled by Cinnabar!***

1. Make a generous donation to Swan View Coalition to-day and Cinnabar Foundation will match your donation up to \$4,000! You can donate on-line at [www.swanview.org](http://www.swanview.org) or [www.swanrange.org](http://www.swanrange.org), by clicking on the Donate Now button! Our address is 3165 Foothill Road, Kalispell, MT 59901.



2. Make the Swan Trek Pledge described on page 4, getting regular exercise for your own benefit while helping secure Swan View's financial health at the same time! Pay up on your pledge by Christmas and it will be matched by Cinnabar Foundation (see above).

3. Help us spread the word! Email a PDF copy of the Swan Ranger flyer to your friends and coworkers by going to [www.swanrange.org](http://www.swanrange.org), clicking on the link near the top of the home page, and following directions.

5. Save paper, trees and postage: get this newsletter in color via email! (See form below).

6. Let us know if you wish to continue receiving our hard-copy newsletter, but are unable to make at least an annual donation. Otherwise, we will be retiring old addresses we've not heard from in a while to conserve resources.



If there is pink on your mailing label, it means you haven't donated in nearly a year or more. Please make a donation so we can keep sending you our newsletter and continue our work!

[ ] Here's \$25 to cover the costs of my newsletters, alerts, and Swan Ranger postings.

[ ] Here's \$50 to help restore a bit of peace and quiet to America's public lands.

[ ] Here's \$100 to help keep forest roads from ending up in America's bull trout streams.

[ ] Here's \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help secure grizzly, lynx and wolverine habitat for future generations.

[ ] As a gift of appreciation for my donation, please send me the Swan/Flathead history booklet "The Lineage of Chief Aeneas: A History of People and Place."

[ ] Save paper! Email my newsletters to \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

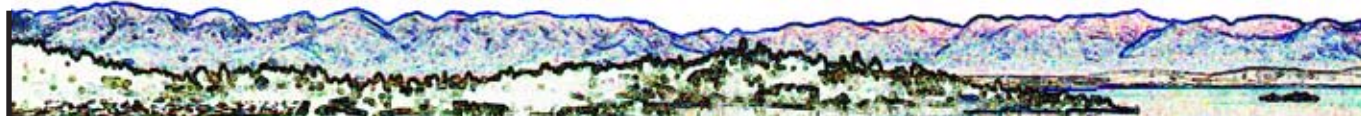
CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Swan View Coalition, Inc.  
3165 Foothill Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

*Printed on Recycled Paper*

# *Swan View's News*

*Fall 2008*



## **We're All in This Together!**

|                                                                          |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Executive Summary</b>                                                 | <b>page 1</b> |
| <b>Individual Generosity Benefits People, Water, Fish and Wildlife!</b>  | <b>page 2</b> |
| <b>DNRC's Foothills Timber Sale in Review: Positive Changes Made!</b>    | <b>page 3</b> |
| <b>Make the "Swan Trek Pledge" for Fun, Fitness and Fund-Raising!</b>    | <b>page 4</b> |
| <b>Learn About the Swan Crest by Doing the Virtual Trek!</b>             | <b>page 5</b> |
| <b><u>Annual Membership Meeting, Pot Luck and Jam Session Nov. 9</u></b> | <b>page 6</b> |
| <b>YOUR DONATION Will be DOUBLED by Cinnabar Foundation!</b>             | <b>page 7</b> |