

Swan View's News *Fall & Holidays 2007*



Swan View Coalition
3165 Foothill Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

"Nature and human nature on the same path."

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We're in It for the Long Haul!

Almost 25 years ago, Swan View Coalition formed as a conservation nonprofit to put an end to the kind of destructive nonsense pictured below. As we approach our 25th anniversary, we continue the battle and prepare for the next 25 years.

Your donations this Holiday Season can help us keep up the good fight in the short term and will be matched up to \$4,000 by Cinnabar Foundation (see page 7)!

You can help us in the long haul by making a bequest in your will or realizing substantial tax benefits associated with transferring stocks, property, life insurance, and annuities (see page 5).

We continue to make considerable progress in protecting roadless public lands while restoring lands damaged by logging and off-road vehicles (see page 2). We are also making progress on legislation to provide more permanent protection and restoration, while simultaneously pursuing strategies that unite rather than divide the conservation community (see page 4).

Our long and good standing in the conservation community also keeps us "in the loop" on important developments, such as the pending release of another hard-hitting coffee table book compiled by George Wuerthner and published by the Foundation for Deep Ecology. See page 7 and either order "Thrillcraft: The Environmental Con-

sequences of Motorized Recreation" from Amazon.com or reserve a free copy from us!

We held our annual membership meeting and helped cohost the Wild Rockies Rendezvous in October, helping shore up wilderness advocacy and provide productive alternatives when 9 of 11 members quit the Flathead-Kootenai

Chapter Board of the Montana Wilderness Association (see page 4).

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Keith



Photo from "Thrillcraft: The Environmental Consequences of Motorized Recreation"

Mud bogging ATVs destroying wetlands for fun.

Building on Our Accomplishments

We initially organized in 1984 to stop the Noisy Face Timber Sale, which would have scarred the western face of the Swan Mountains with twelve 20-acre square clear-cuts and many miles of new road construction. We not only stopped it, we secured designation of the area as "essential" grizzly bear habitat and secured the closure of scores of roads and ATV trails to benefit both wildlife and water quality.

We also challenged the then brand new Flathead Forest Plan, which would have logged 100 million board feet and built 75 miles of road each year until the Flathead's 4,000 miles of road reached 6,000. Our lawsuits resulted in Forest Plan Amendment 19, which lowered the timber cut to 54 and replaced road building with a mandatory road closure and reclamation program.

We have since secured the reclamation of 552 miles of road and decisions to reclaim another 343 miles. In order to protect fish and wildlife, the Flathead's proposed revision of its Forest Plan would again lower the timber cut by half! And we have several lawsuits in federal court to help insure the Flathead lives up to its promises in both its current and proposed revised Forest Plan.

As we use the courts to make sure fish and wildlife get a fair shake, we have pursued a number of community initiatives to foster a community identity based in quiet use and respect for nearby public lands.

We have thus far helped lead 105 Saturday Swan Ranger outings in the northern Swan Range, averaging five people per outing, including an average of one new person.

These folks have learned first-hand the value of quiet exercise and recreation. At our urging, their letters have convinced the Forest Service to close a number of trails in the Swan Range to motorized vehicles, including the Hall Creek, Bond Creek, and Switchback trails. Their letters also have the Forest Service poised to close the Napa Ridge Trail, a portion of Alpine Trail #7, and the Bruce Ridge Trail in order to re-

serve for quiet use and better wildlife security that trans-Swan Crest route.

We need their and your continued support, however, to secure closure of the remaining Swan Crest motorized routes. See the map on page 3 for details about the area south of Jewel Basin.

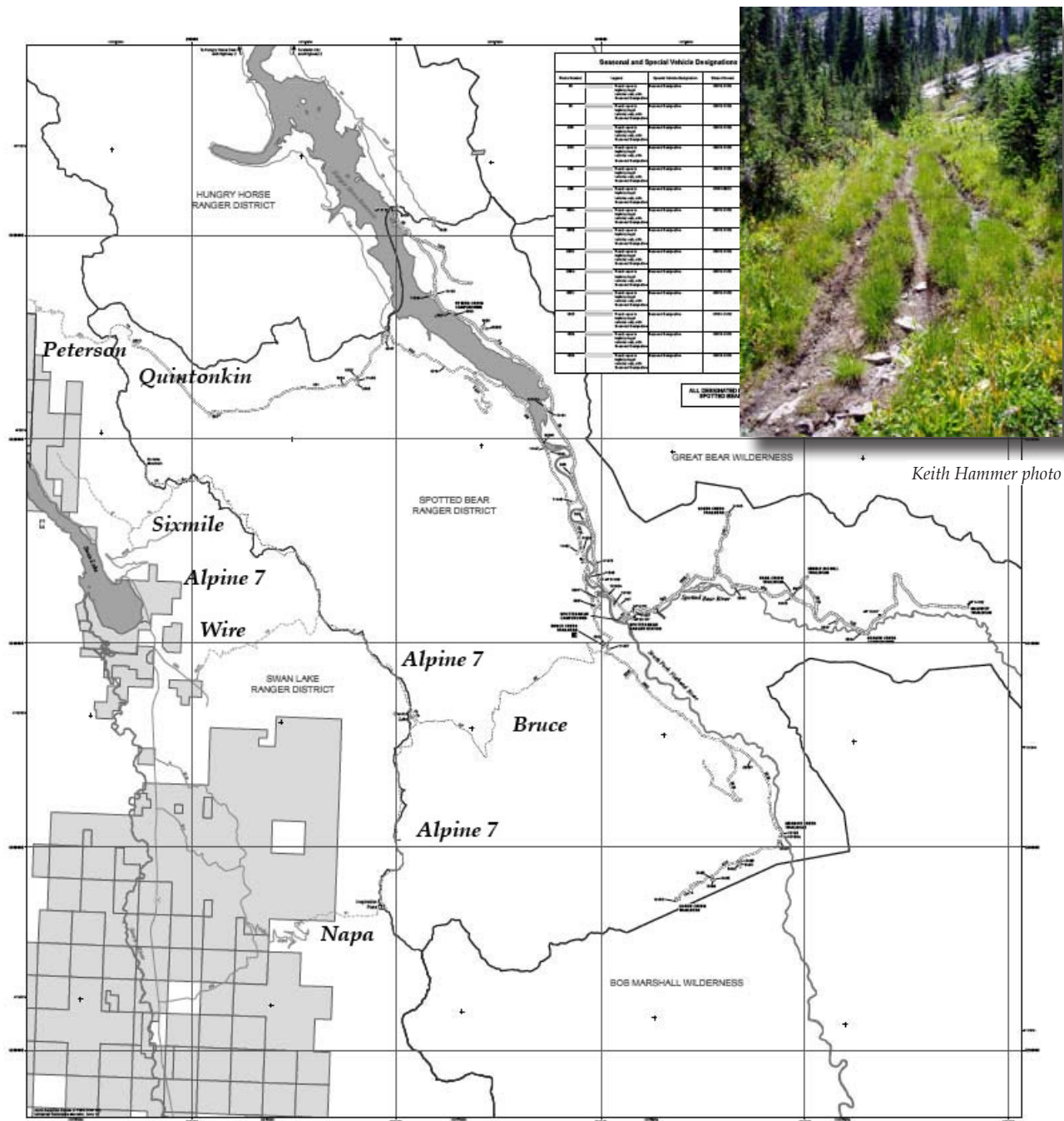


Swan View Coalition photo

The last dirt bike race run in Krause Basin, before we got it designated "essential" grizzly bear habitat.

We have also helped foster good community relations and fun by helping host 23 Swan Range Community Music Jam Sessions along the Swan Foothills. And we may begin hosting Swan Range Swing Dances as well (see page 6)!

We also stepped up to the plate and helped draft wilderness legislation for the North Fork Flathead when the local board of Montana Wilderness Association disintegrated. We are working within the limits of our IRS 501(c)(3) status to move that legislation through Congress (see page 4).



The Spotted Bear Ranger District Motor Vehicle Use Map shows the remaining motorcycle routes accessing the Swan Crest south of Jewel Basin Hiking Area (we've added *Trail Names*). The photo inset shows why motorcycles don't belong on the Swan Crest!

Not shown are the network of old roads and trails closed or reclaimed under Amendment 19 and other Forest Plan requirements we secured to protect fish and wildlife!

Thanks to your letters of support, the southern trans-Swan Crest route (Napa-Alpine 7-Bruce) will most likely be closed within a year. We are building our case against the remaining Peterson-Quintonkin trans-Swan Crest route - as well as the Sixmile-Alpine 7-Wire loop involving the Swan Lake Ranger District.

The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act would designate these areas as a combination of Wilderness Areas and Wildland Recovery Areas.

Moving NREPA Forward Through Congress!

This year we helped redraft the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, in part to designate all roadless lands in the Swan and Whitefish Mountain Ranges as Wilderness. In October, we cohosted the Wild Rockies Rendezvous, submitted written testimony for a House Subcommittee hearing on NREPA (we can provide a DVD with audio of the hearing), and helped spur letters of local support for NREPA in local newspapers.

Now, it is time to move NREPA out of committee and pass it through the House! Your phone calls of support, regardless of where in the United States you live, can help pass this 5-state wildlands protection and restoration bill for the benefit of all Americans!

Help designate 20 million acres of federal land as Wilderness and restore another 1 million acres of damaged federal lands by phoning the key members of Congress listed below. **Please, simply take a few moments over a few days to make these calls!**

You will be helping save taxpayers \$245 million by not developing roadless lands, even after paying for the 2,300 high-paying jobs that will be created restoring watersheds and wildlands in the first ten years!

The following Members of the Natural Resources Committee are current cosponsors of NREPA, HR 1975. Please call and thank them for their committed support and urge them to continue to support NREPA when the bill comes to mark up.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Nick J. Rahall, WV, Chairman | 202-225-6065 |
| 2. Raúl M. Grijalva, AZ, Chair, Subcommittee Nat'l Parks, Forests, Public Lands | 202-225-2435 |
| 3. Lois Capps, CA | 202-225-3601 |
| 4. Donna M. Christensen, VI | 202-225-1790 |
| 5. Jim Costa, CA | 202-225-3341 |
| 6. Maurice D. Hinchey, NY | 202-225-6335 |
| 7. Rush D. Holt, NJ | 202-225-5801 |
| 8. Jay Inslee, WA | 202-225-6311 |
| 9. Patrick J. Kennedy, RI | 202-225-3911 |
| 10. Dale E. Kildee, MI | 202-225-3611 |
| 11. Ron Kind, WI | 202-225-5506 |
| 12. Edward J. Markey, MA | 202-225-2836 |
| 13. George Miller, CA | 202-225-2095 |
| 14. Grace F. Napolitano, CA | 202-225-5256 |
| 15. Solomon P. Ortiz, TX | 202-225-7742 |
| 16. Frank Pallone, Jr., NJ | 202-225-4671 |
| 17. Hilda L. Solis, CA | 202-225-5464 |
| 18. Mark Udall, CO | 202-225-2161 |
| 19. Wayne Gilchrest, MD | 202-225-5311 |



Keith Hammer photo

The Wild Rockies Rendezvous was held at the historic Symes Hotel in Hot Springs, just days before a U.S. House hearing on NREPA!

These Members have cosponsored NREPA in the past, but have not yet signed on in this Congress (110th). Please contact them, thank them for their prior support and urge them to sign back on.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 20. Eni Faleomavga, AS | 202-225-8577 |
| 21. Joe Baca, CA | 202-225-8671 |
| 22. Jim Saxton, NJ | 202-225-4765 |

These Members have NEVER cosponsored NREPA. Please contact them and urge them to support this bill now.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 23. Madeleine Z. Bordallo, GU | 202-225-8577 |
| 24. Neil Abercrombie, HI | 202-225-4580 |
| 25. Dan Boren, OK | 202-225-2701 |
| 26. John P. Sarbanes, MD | 202-225-4016 |
| 27. Peter A. DeFazio, OR | 202-225-6416 |
| 28. Stephanie Herseth, SD | 202-225-2801 |
| 29. Heath Shuler, NC | 202-225-6401 |

*Thanks to Arlene Montgomery and Colleen Corrigan for this list of Committee members' sponsorship!

Planned Giving Garners Substantial Tax Benefits

Not all of us have big chunks of money to spare in our budget, no matter how badly we'd like to help out our favorite charitable nonprofit. But most of us have assets we can gift a nonprofit to help insure it can continue its work while we continue to pursue our lives, educations and retirements.

Perhaps the most widely recognized is a simple bequest in one's will, leaving either property or a stated percentage of one's estate to a nonprofit to use at its discretion. Swan View has been the recipient of such generosity and it boosts our ability to accomplish our goals tremendously!

Another popular gift is the establishment of an endowment, wherein the gifted principal is used to earn "interest" income for the daily operations of the nonprofit. Endowments are a good avenue for folks wanting to insure that their gift provides income over both the short and long term.

An endowment can be established with the target nonprofit itself or with a community foundation that manages the endowment on behalf of the target nonprofit. Community foundations can serve as a go-between, especially between the donor and a smaller nonprofit lacking the staff to manage endowments.

In other words, the donor is assured its endowment gift will be managed professionally and the "interest" will go directly and regularly to the named nonprofit until the day it no longer exists. After that, the "interest" can be granted to a nonprofit of similar mission and purpose.

While Swan View has yet to established a formal endowment, we have received small grants over the past several years from the Montana Community Foundation through its nonpermanent Sustainability Fund. If you would like to help establish a permanent endowment in which you can specifically designate Swan View Coalition as the recipient of the income, please contact us, the Montana Community Foundation or Flathead Community Foundation.

Tax law provides incentives for folks to give assets to a charitable nonprofit rather than sell them and then have to pay capital gains and other taxes.

For example, gifting appreciated stocks increases the value of your gift over selling those stocks and then donating the assets after taxes.

There are also provisions in the law that allow persons

over 70.5 years of age to roll over distributions from an IRA directly to a charity, rather than have to accept the unneeded but required distribution themselves and pay income tax on it. And Montana provides a substantial Endowment Tax Credit in addition to federal tax savings!

Did you know you can gift property to charity and continue to live on it, or gift an annuity and get paid income from it for the rest of your life, while realizing the tax benefits now? There are many ways to meet your own needs while also helping your favorite nonprofit!

Please talk with your financial advisor and give us a call to keep your money working for you and the environment!



FLATHEAD
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Community foundations can manage endowments earmarked for a particular nonprofit group or cause.

Good Sense, Good Fun, Good Advocacy!

Low Overhead

The Swan Range is the primary focus of our conservation efforts and it is our office. Rather than spend money on costly overhead like fancy office space, we have invested it in portable computer, audio and visual equipment that allows us to be where the action is - in the outdoors, civic meetings, public events, and homes that comprise the Swan Range Community!

Swan View's News now in PDF!

At long last, Adobe software has caught up with our new Mac dual processors, enabling us to provide this newsletter in both print and pdf format! If you would like to receive our newsletter only by email (pdf), please let us know and we'll help you save the paper and trees! Beginning with this issue, you can also view or download our newsletter from www.swanview.org - a great way to share it IN COLOR with friends!

Swan View Officers Elected

At our general membership meeting in October, we elected officers for the coming year. Keith Hammer was reelected as Chair, Julie Bates as Secretary, and Carol Buchan as Treasurer.

Swan Range Community Jams!

We will once again be hosting Swan Range Community Music Jam Sessions in public venues along the Swan Foothills this winter! The every-other-Sunday sessions are for all skill levels and begin with a potluck at 5pm, followed by music until 9.

The gatherings will be held at the Mountain Brook Library at 2353 Foothill Road on January 6, February 3, and March 2. They will be held at the Swan River Community Hall at 115 Swan River Road on January 20, February 17, and March 16. So mark your calendars now for indoor winter fun!

Bring your instrument or voice, some friends, dinnerware and a bit of food. No alcohol please.

Until then, the jams continue to be held in Swan Foothill homes. Seventeen have been held since the six held last winter in public venues.

Let us know if you'd like to join us before January!



Swan Range photo by Edd Blackler

Welcome to our office!

Swan Range Swing Dances!

We are looking into holding swing dances at the Swan River Community Hall this winter, likely on the Saturday evenings of weekends not having a Sunday jam session. We also hope to have instruction provided the first hour, so we are looking for instructors as well as dancers!

Your Gift Will be Doubled By Cinnabar Foundation!

Cinnabar Foundation has once again issued us a Challenge Grant - this time in the amount of \$4,000. Cinnabar will match our member donations up to that \$4,000, meaning your gift will automatically be doubled if you act soon!

This includes donations made securely on-line by going to www.swanview.org and clicking on this button!



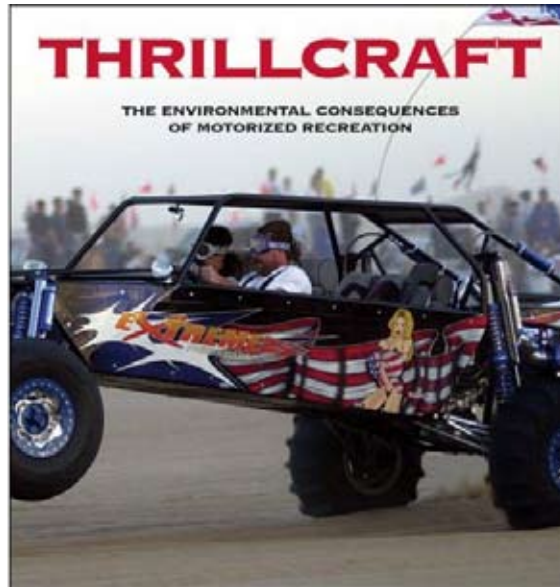
As a membership-driven public charity, we depend upon your support. Please give what you can today to sustain both your membership and our work!

Get a Copy of Thrillcraft!

"Thrillcraft: The Environmental Consequences of Motorized Recreation" exposes the lasting damage done to our land, water, and air from the growing plague

of jet skis, quads, dirt bikes, dune buggies, snowmobiles, and other motorized recreational craft that are penetrating the last bastions of wild America - with more than one hundred shocking color photographs!

Editor George Wuerthner is currently the ecological projects director for the Foundation for Deep Ecology. We



will have a limited number of these coffee table format books to give away - just let us know you want one. Or they can be ordered from Amazon.com for about \$40.



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 postage.
- ☐ 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."

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

*Swan View Coalition, Inc.
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