

Swan View's News

Holidays 2009



Swan View Coalition
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"Nature and human nature on the same path."

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Rays of Hope Shine Through Hard Times

As the recession weeds the world's economic garden, we can give thanks for the space provided for other sectors of the economy to flourish and bloom. As timber markets remain at record lows and are forecast to lag several years behind other areas of economic recovery, we can give thanks for emerging work in alternative fuels, conservation and environmental restoration.

Indeed, the debate is shifting from "jobs versus the environment" to "jobs and the environment." The conservation community is poised to glean much fruit from its grass-roots efforts of the past decades - if it does not get impatient and indulge in outdated economic assumptions.

Working in concert with regional and national groups, we are now seeing funding flow to the Forest Service specifically for road reclamation and watershed restoration (page 2). Working with a broad coalition of conservation groups, we continue to promote the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act to address climate change and wildlife conservation through protection and restoration of America's roadless lands (page 3). We will

protect America's wildlands as benchmarks for ecosystem health! (pages 4-5).

This Holiday Season we ask you to take a moment to appreciate the incredible gift of public lands and our efforts to protect them, especially in the Swan Range. We also ask you to support our work through a generous donation and describe several easy ways to do so (pages 6-7).



Rainbow over the Swan Range. © Paul Erler 2009

Plus, your gift of Swan View memberships to friends will brighten their lives with weekly Swan Ranger reports and photos, biweekly articles on the cultural and natural history of the Swan Range, timely alerts helping them protect fish and wildlife, and our quarterly newsletter (page 6). Don't forget your donations and gift memberships made before Christmas will help us raise the \$4,000 necessary to meet our \$4,000 Cinnabar Challenge Grant - doubling your contribution!

Thank You and Happy Holidays!

Keith

Standards and Funding For Limiting Motor Vehicles and Restoring Watersheds

Removing unneeded roads to protect fish and wildlife requires a combination of management standards requiring the work and the money to get it done. We have good news about funding and mixed news regarding the enforceability of the management standards.

We helped secure \$750,000 of American Restoration and Recovery Act funds specifically for road reclamation on the Flathead National Forest, which will reclaim 50-60

some 2,000 to 3,000 high-pay, high-skill jobs in rural communities - a win-win for jobs and the environment! You can learn more details at www.wildlandscpr.org and more about why unneeded roads should be reclaimed by visiting our Reports page at www.swanview.org.

This year the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on three of our lawsuits intended to enforce the Flathead Forest Plan standards requiring road decommissioning and



Road reclamation carefully removes culverts (left), rather than letting them blow out. *Forest Service photos*

miles of road over the next year. In separate recent funding, Congress passed and President Obama signed a bill authorizing \$90 million for Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation on the National Forests - as much as the funding for 2007 and 2008 combined! This is a good start for whittling away at the 186,000 miles of unneeded roads the Forest Service has said it must reclaim in order to reduce its road system to a manageable and essential size.

A study conducted by Wildlands CPR found that funding of \$93 million per year for 20 years will be needed to accomplish the task and that the work would sustain

limits on motor vehicles to protect threatened grizzly bear. We won an order finding that the Flathead must indeed comply with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines and "favor the bear" in its essential habitat, but lost two lawsuits attempting to increase the rate at which the Flathead is reclaiming its backlog of 238 miles of road.

We'll utilize the Guidelines to require each new Flathead project include an enforceable time line for reclaiming unneeded roads in the project area and will monitor every project. With more funding available, we should see the 45 mi / yr reclamation average on the Flathead increase next year.

Protecting America's Public Lands a National Concern!

We can take much inspiration from Ken Burns' film "The National Parks: America's Best Idea" and readily extend its premise to the remainder of America's public lands. Key take-home messages in Burns' film are that threats to America's wildlands never cease and that their protection is brought about through national concern and legislation, often over the objections of local politicians.

Indeed, as elk and bison were being slaughtered by commercial hunting in the West in the late 1800s, it was not the new states of Montana and Wyoming that put an end to it. It was Representative John Lacey of Iowa who prohibited the interstate transport of illegally killed wildlife when his "Lacey Act" was signed into law by President William McKinley in 1900.

Montana Senator Thomas Long objected to what is now Glacier National Park being designated a Forest Preserve in 1900, followed by the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce objecting to its designation as a National Park in 1910. Thank goodness for the persistence of Americans George Bird Grinnell and others, who had the foresight to see that the area needed better protection than that afforded the Forest Preserves (later known as National Forests) and convinced President Taft to designate Glacier as America's 10th National Park! Today, local communities thrive on tourists visiting Glacier National Park and the families and businesses choosing to locate near it!

More recently, the town of Seward, Alaska was so dead-set against the designation of Kenai Fjords National Park that it passed two resolutions denouncing the idea. After the Park was designated in 1980 and Seward began to reap the rewards, however, it rescinded its previous resolutions and asked that the Park be expanded! President Carter, once burned in effigy in Alaska for his conservation initiatives

there, nonetheless tripled the size of Denali National Park and designated most of it Wilderness for added protection.

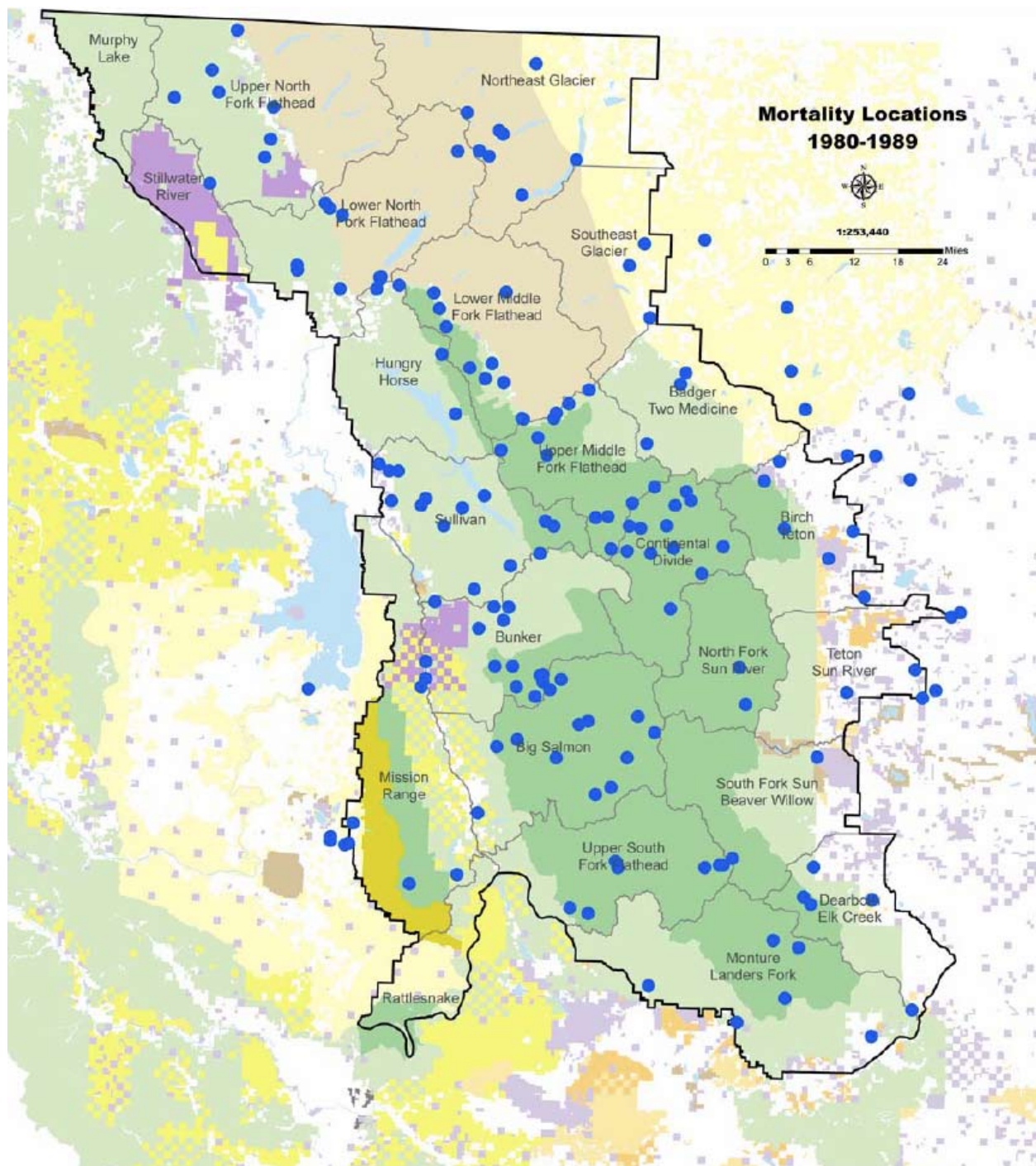
For these reasons and more, we helped write and support the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act knowing it may not initially garner support from Congressional delegations in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. It builds upon President Clinton's - and now Obama's - intention to protect roadless lands from development, se-

questering carbon in roadless forests also serving as wildlife migration corridors. It also creates high-paying jobs restoring watersheds through road reclamation.

In contrast, Senator Tester's (D-MT) wildlands logging bill would set dangerous precedent by mandating logging levels on two National Forests and subsidizing the burning of public forests as "biomass." It would also release from protection numerous roadless lands and Wilderness Study Areas granted protection by the far-sighted Senator Lee Metcalf in 1977!



Tester's bill defines commercial logging as "restoration." *Keith Hammer photo*

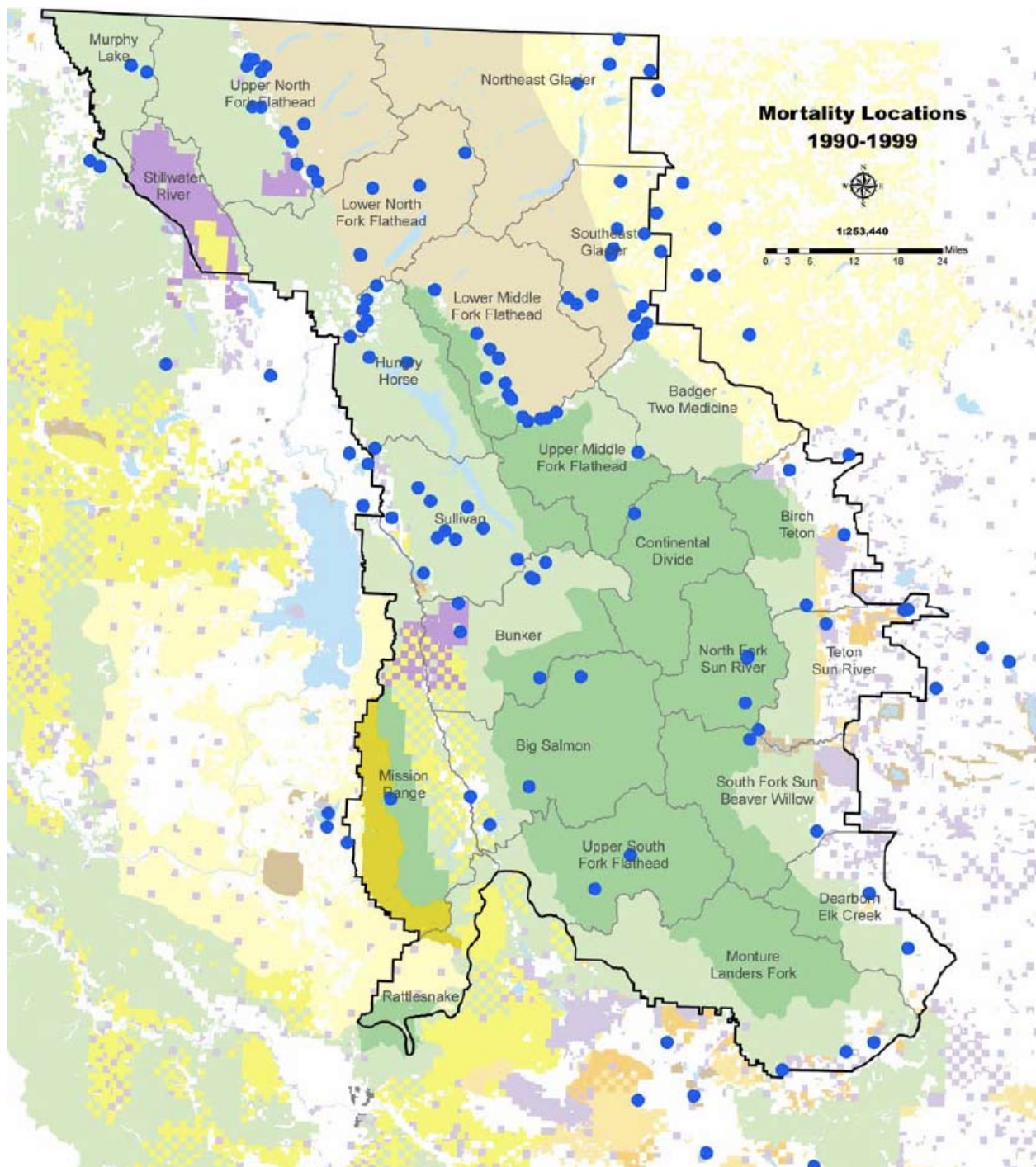


Wildlands Our Best Benchmark for Wildlife Habitat!

The Fish and Wildlife Service maps on this and the following page help illustrate our two-prong approach to conserving grizzly bears: 1) limit human-caused mortality and 2) safeguard habitat. The map on this page shows the location of known human-caused grizzly bear mortalities in the

Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem during the 1980's and the map on the following page shows the mortalities during the 1990's. Mortality patterns for the 2000's are similar to those of the 1990's, but space does not allow us to show the third map.

(continued on next page)



Our lawsuit in 1991 stopped the permitted hunting of grizzly bears. The resulting drop in mortality in the Bob Marshall Wilderness (dark green or gray at center) is clearly evident. The remaining mortality pattern around the the Bob Marshall and Glacier National Park to its north, including the Hwy 2/BNSF railroad corridor that divides them, is testament to the lethality of roads, railroads, and other developments.

As the 1982 Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan correctly noted, "the national parks and wilderness areas can fulfill the crucial role of providing a standard of environmental health . . . our best benchmarks, indicative of healthy communities of plants and animals." All legislation and land management plans should respect this basic premise and not allow development in America's remaining roadless areas.

Help Us Raise \$4,000 by Christmas - Doubling Your Money and Helping Us Do Our Work!

Donations: We must finish raising \$4,000 by Christmas to match a \$4,000 Challenge Grant from Cinnabar Foundation. Please make a generous donation today and know it will be doubled by Cinnabar Foundation! Same applies to Gift Memberships, below!

Gift Memberships: Give the gift that keeps on giving - a gift membership to Swan View Coalition! For your minimum dues donation of \$25 each, recipients will receive a note from us wishing them Happy Holidays (or other greeting you designate) on your behalf. We'll then send them our weekly Swan Ranger email reports and photos, biweekly articles on the cultural and natural history of the Swan Range, occasional alerts that help them protect fish, wildlife and quiet recreation, and our quarterly newsletter. We'll keep them informed for a year, then ask if they'd like to renew.

Gift memberships are a great way to avoid shopping for gifts that often end up sitting on the shelf and they bring a weekly ray of sunshine and hope into the recipient's life. Here's what some folks have said recently about our work, reports, articles and alerts:

From all I've heard about your commitment and sense of responsibility for preserving and protecting the land and the life of the forest, you sound very like my beloved in-laws, Sandy and Len Sargent [founders of Cinnabar Foundation]. It is no wonder the Cinnabar Foundation named you the 2006 recipient of the Stewardship Award. My husband, Rick, joins me in acknowledging the tremendous work you are doing in Montana. Judi Stauffer Sargent

I consider this [closing 20 miles of Swan Crest trails to motorcycles] to be a momentous accomplishment for the Flathead Valley. Thanks for your diligence. E.B.

Your last article was a pleasure to read--so down to earth and personal. When I read your columns I know there is a real person there and also one who will let me know when crucial issues need to be addressed. D.M.

Thanks for all you do to bring people together to enjoy each other and our beautiful area. N.C.

Your positive message in your article is clear and uplifting. It is timely, not only for me, but for many others as well I am sure. J.S.

Thanks. You'll never know how much I needed this today. D.B.

Simply email or mail us the name, mailing address, email address, and greeting of your choice for each Gift Membership you wish to give and send us a minimum of \$25 for each gift, although every additional dollar helps! (See the following/opposite page for how to contact us and to easily make payment). If you don't provide the recipient's email address, we will only be able to mail them our quarterly newsletter.

How to Make a Donation or Gift Membership Payment

1. Send a check to Swan View Coalition at 3165 Foothill Road, Kalispell, MT 59901.

2. Use your credit card securely on-line at www.swanview.org or www.swanrange.org, by clicking on the Donate Now button!



Groundspring/Network for Good handles your transaction for us and informs us immediately via email of your donation by credit card. If you have other info you want to get to us, such as the names, addresses and greetings you choose for your Gift Memberships, simply email them to keith@swanview.org or mail them to the address in #1, above.

You can also choose to have your credit card donations recur automatically. Simply select the "recurring" option under "frequency." You can edit or cancel your choices of frequency and amount at any future time via your "edit settings" button near the top of the secure donation page. This option allows you to budget your donations over time and saves us time and money by not having to send you "renewal" notices!

3. The Charitable IRA Rollover provision for taxpayers age 70½ and older was renewed for 2009. This allows taxpayers not wanting to receive their annual IRA distribution and then having to pay income tax on it to instead gift it directly from their IRA to the charity of their choice tax-free! If you'd like to donate your distribution to Swan View Coalition, consult with your tax advisor and tell them our IRS charitable ID number is 81-0423034.



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 my minimum dues, newsletters, alerts, and Swan Ranger Reports.

☐ 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.

☐ Here's \$_____ for _____ Gift Memberships at a minimum of \$25 each. I've included each recipient's name, mailing address, email address, and my greeting on separate paper.

☐ 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" and/or ☐ a Swan Ranger patch (circle "hang-loop" or "sew-on").

☐ Save paper! Email my newsletters to _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

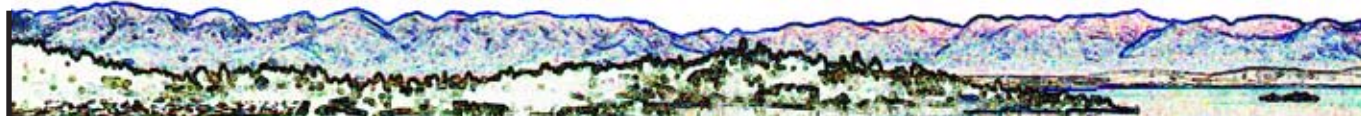
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Respecting and Expanding Our Conservation Legacy!

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