

Swan View's News

Summer 2009



Swan View Coalition
3165 Foothill Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

"Nature and human nature on the same path."

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"Celebrating the Swan Range" - A 25th Anniversary Photo Exhibit Amid Our Summer Work!



The Swan Range from Echo Lake, a seat-of-the-pants panorama that helped defeat the Noisy Face Timber Sale in 1984, which would have scarred the landscape with road-cuts and clear-cuts. *Wayne Hammer photos 1984*

We continue this summer to celebrate our 25th year of conserving quiet habitat for fish, wildlife and people while also keeping pace with the work that conservation requires. This issue of Swan View's News previews our upcoming "Celebrating the Swan Range" photo exhibit in Bigfork and provides updates on milestones reached this summer in our conservation work.

Please join us August 25 (show opening is 5:30-7:30) - September 5 as we cohost "Celebrating the Swan Range" with Bigfork Museum of Art and History! (See page 2).

After years of environmental assessment and public input, the Flathead National Forest in April secured 20 miles of trail on the southern Swan Crest for quiet recreation by closing them to motorcycles! Good news for grizzly bears and people - thanks to your comments! (See page 3).

In July, U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy ruled the Forest Service in contempt of court for allowing snowmobiling this year in grizzly bear habitat after the bears have emerged from their winter dens! Molloy issued an injunction against the late-season snowmobiling in 2008 as a result of our lawsuit against the plan. (See page 3).

Our hosting of Walkin' Jim Stoltz's "Wild Forever" show in May drew a full house and we sold \$1,000 in raffle tickets for the two Patagonia jackets! You can also help us raise funds by purchasing photos at the "Celebrating the Swan Range" exhibit!

Thank you for your continued support of our work through donations, purchases and kind words!

Keith

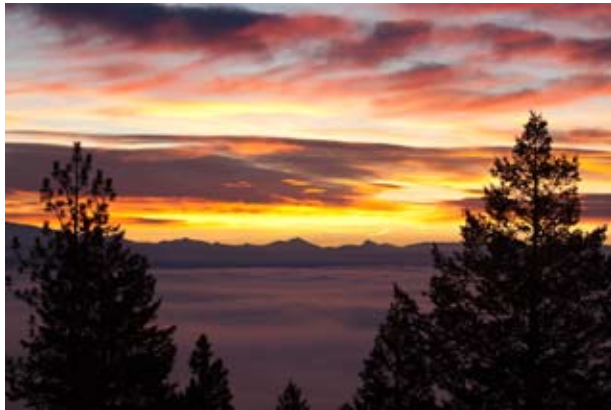
"Celebrating the Swan Range!" - Exploring Its Enrichment of Our Lives Through Photography and Kind Words!

Please join us August 25 - September 5 as we cohost "Celebrating the Swan Range" with the Bigfork Museum of Art and History. The opening for this photo exhibit is 5:30 - 7:30 pm, August 25. The Museum is located at 525 Electric Avenue, Bigfork, and is open 10 - 5, Tuesday - Saturday.

The exhibit is intended to foster public appreciation of the Swan Range and its en-

Images of the eight photos already chosen as Jury Choice in each category and division grace the pages of this newsletter and we encourage those of you reading a hard copy of this newsletter to view it online at www.swanview.org to fully appreciate the photos in color! Better yet, of course, is to come see the entire exhibit in Bigfork!

We want to thank everyone who submitted photos for this contest and exhibit, most of whom also granted Swan View use of their digital images for its nonprofit educational purposes. You'll be seeing more of their photos in the future! We also wish to thank the many area businesses donating prizes for the photo category winners!



"Winter Sunrise"

© Rick Sheremeta 2007

richment of our lives through photographs and kind words. The photographs will be for sale and proceeds will be split between the photographer, the Museum, and Swan View Coalition. We hope you'll seize this opportunity to shop for worthwhile gifts while helping to support the art of photography and conservation of the wonderful Swan Range!

A visit to the Museum will also afford you the opportunity to vote for the Peoples' Choice awards for the best photo in each of four categories in both the amateur and professional divisions! The categories are: 1) views of the Swan Range, 2) views from within the Swan Range, 3) plants and wildlife in the Swan Range, and 4) people in the Swan Range.



"Golden Tamaracks and Swan Mountains"

© Lawrence Stolte 2006

Quiet Habitat Secured On Southern Swan Crest!

The Flathead National Forest in April secured 20 miles of trail on the southern Swan Crest as quiet habitat by closing them to motorcycles! The Napa Ridge Trail, Bruce Ridge Trail, and the section of historic Alpine Trail #7 from Inspiration Pass to Crevice Lakes are now secure for quiet recreation and better wildlife security.

Closing this trans-Swan Crest route to motorcycles consolidates three grizzly bear security core areas previously fragmented by motorized use. It also protects fragile alpine soils and vegetation from damage.

The decision came after two years of public comment during which motor vehicle groups mounted letter-writing campaigns. This was countered by folks writing in favor of quiet habitat, with 47 of the



"Approaching Swan Peak" © Caroline Riss 2008

55 writing in favor of the decision having been called to action by our newsletters and Swan Ranger email alerts!

Several motor groups appealed the decision. We expressed our support of the decision during a conference call with appellants and the Forest Service is holding firm thus far! Many thanks to all of you that wrote in favor of this good decision!

Judge Rules Snowmobiling In Contempt of Court!

U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy in July ruled the Flathead National Forest and Fish and Wildlife Service in contempt of court for allowing snowmobiling after grizzly bears had emerged from their winter dens in 2009. Molloy had ruled in 2008 that



"Silent and Curious"

© Dee Linnell Blank 2009

Fish and Wildlife Service's biological opinion approving Flathead National Forest's late-season snowmobiling plan violated the ESA and enjoined late-season snowmobiling until a legal "BiOp" could be issued.

Rather than submit the new BiOp to the court when completed in December 2008, the agencies submitted it only days before the late-season was to begin in April, boldly declaring the injunction lifted. Molloy's July ruling, while too late to stop last spring's snowmobiling, stated "Defendants' unilateral declaration that they complied with the Court's Order and therefore the injunction was automatically dissolved has no legal force other than constituting a violation of law for which the appropriate remedy is criminal contempt proceedings."

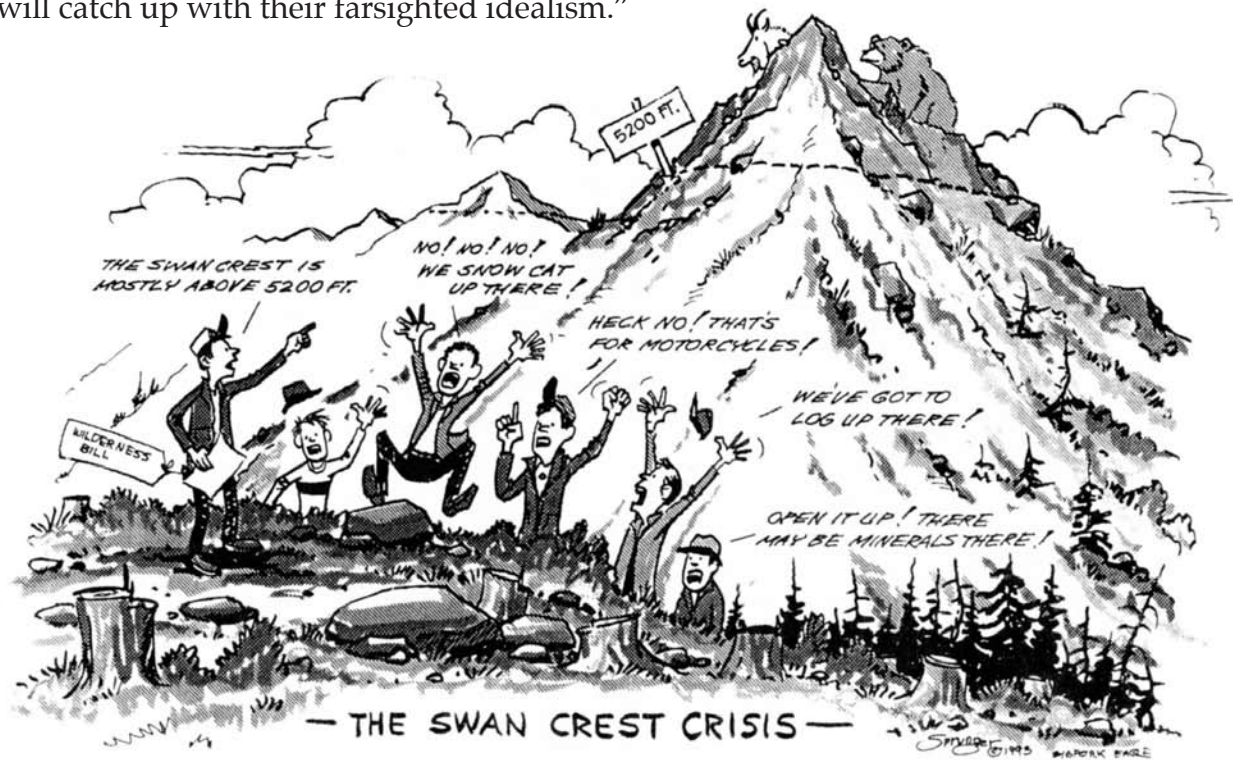
Our lawsuit has the injunction reinstated, Molloy has warned the agencies he will decide whether the new BiOp is legal, and we now have the chance to argue it is not.

Tester's Timber Bill or NREPA's Ecosystem Protection?

Wilderness legislation is too often viewed as a piñata, with everyone invited to beat it with a baseball bat until it is emptied of its sweetness and valuables. Then, perhaps, the string and remnants of papier mâché are designated Wilderness. Likewise, many have come to regard America's public roadless areas as "spoils," divvying them up for mining, logging, oil and gas development, ATV's, and snowmobiles - with perhaps a token of the high-elevation rocks and ice left over for Wilderness designation.

In July, Montana's Senator Jon Tester (Democrat) introduced his "Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2009" via a press conference at the RY Timber sawmill in Townsend, Montana. Crafted in large part from deals struck with industry by groups including The Wilderness Society, Montana Wilderness Association, National Wildlife Federation, and Trout Unlimited, Tester's 84-page bill does not get to the matter of designating some rocks-and-ice wilderness until page 42. The first half of the bill is instead dedicated to the unprecedented act of mandating logging levels on parts of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge and Kootenai National Forests. And, just in case lumber markets don't rebound to match the logging levels, Tester's bill lays the groundwork for your tax dollars to buy biomass boilers for private lumber companies so they can burn the trees instead!

Thankfully, authors of the five-state Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act regard roadless lands as America's best chances of maintaining its fish and wildlife populations and are asking Congress to designate them Wilderness rather than trade them away. As the New York Times noted of NREPA in its July 7, 2009 editorial, "The great strength of the bill lies in the breadth of its vision. Recognizing that animals and plants thrive best within intact ecosystems, not governmental borders, it would reach across state lines to secure biological corridors. . . horse trading won't save whole ecosystems. The bill's supporters are holding out for a truly wild wilderness bill in the hope that someday politics will catch up with their farsighted idealism."



"I am lucky enough to have the Swan Range in my 'backyard.' Now when I tell people where I'm from, I say it with pride."

Steve Mitchell

"When was the last time you enjoyed something so much it made you scream? Try jumping into one of the Swan Range's lakes!"

Dee Blank

"Iconic viewsheds like this command our attention, but also deserve our protection."

Brett Thuma



"Birch Lake"

© Rick Sheremeta 2006



"Rosella's Vision"

© Dee Linnell Blank 2009

"The Swans, always changing, always beautiful, always intriguing, lifting the spirit beyond belief."

Dan Hartwell

"It's a good place for kids to be kids."

Paulette Love

"After a 20 mile day hike up to Swan Peak, there is little left to do but reflect. Beautiful views, drastic weather, challenging terrain, huckleberries, bear tracks, elk calls and friends. That is what life is all about."

Caroline Riss



"Upper Rumble Lake"

© Lawrence Stolte 2004

"The Swan Range of mountains has always had a great fascination for me because of the fantastic opportunities for hiking, fishing, and photography."

Lawrence Stolte



"Inquisitive Mama Goat"

© Lynne C. Brett 2008

Make a Donation Today And Receive a Free Swan Ranger Patch!



Make a donation today and we'll send you a beautifully embroidered Swan Ranger patch to sew or hang on your backpack, cap or jacket! This 2.5" by 3.5" patch is a great way to show you help restore quiet habitat for fish, wildlife and people! Here's how:

1. Send a check to Swan View Coalition at 3165 Foothill Road, Kalispell, MT 59901 and indicate whether you want a "sew-on" or "hang-loop" patch.
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 credit card transaction for us and informs us immediately via email of your donation and whether you've asked for one of our free gifts. If you have other info you want to get to us, simply email it to keith@swanview.org or mail it to the address above.

3. If you want extra patches for friends or family, send a SASE to the address above, along with \$5 for each patch, or \$20 for 5 patches!



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: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

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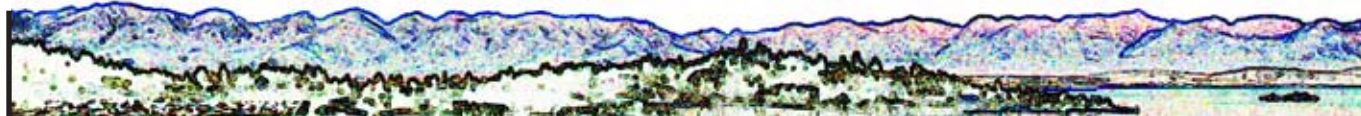


**Photo Show Aug 25 -
Sept 5! (preview inside)**

More Trails Secured!

Sleds in Contempt!

Timber Bill or NREPA?

