

Swan View's News

Holidays 2013



Swan View Coalition
3165 Foothill Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

"Nature and human nature on the same path."

www.swanview.org
www.swanrange.org
swanview@swanview.org

The Holidays: Renewed Hope and Resolve!

The holidays are upon us once again, providing us numerous opportunities to visit friends and family, give thanks, take stock, and look to the future!

We are poised at a critical time in human history for making decisions that affect us and our environment both globally and locally. This newsletter will look at the great benefits that can be realized by, of all things, simplifying our lives.

On page 2 we will discuss why compromise is often not an option for either fish, wildlife or people but nonetheless leads us to rejoice and strengthen our resolve.

Pages 3 and 4 will demonstrate how climate change comes to bear on how decisions should be made in this day and age, especially regarding America's roadless lands. And we'll discuss the importance of literally slowing our pace to 3 mph whenever possible - both for the good of the planet and for the good of our souls!

Page 5 tells of two recent experiences that truly brought home the message of how nature is fully capable of restoring life if we only give her the chance, emphasizing how important it is to get out on the ground to experience first-hand what many researchers have been telling us for a long time!



Onward and upward!

Keith Hammer Photo

Pages 6 and 7 elaborate on how important our members are as they provide support of our work through both donations and kind words.

Thank you for meeting the \$4,000 Cinnabar Challenge in November and please help us raise the final \$14,000 needed in 2013!

**HAPPY SOLSTICE,
HAPPY HOLIDAYS,
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Keith

Time to Pay the Fiddler - and Rejoice!

We continue to do a lot of soul searching about the incredible pressure that is being brought to bear on conservation groups to collaborate and reach consensus with the industries and public land management agencies that have driven many fish and wildlife species to the brink of extinction. As we indicated in our Fall newsletter, we value collaboration to the degree it allows us to better understand everyone's interests and will participate when we can.

But we will not allow it to simply provide a feel-good cover for industry and the agencies to continue down a path that is not truly sustainable of fish, wildlife and human life. A group of people can reach consensus on how much baggage to bring on their small airplane, but that doesn't mean it's going to get off the ground if the consensus doesn't comply with the laws of physics and nature!

"Being honest may not get you a lot of friends but it'll always get you the right ones."

John Lennon

So please pardon us when we object to a biased collaborative process or a flawed outcome. We simply can't in good conscience agree, for example, that fossil fuel guzzling motorcycles, ATVs and snowmobiles should run off-road on public lands "for fun" when we all need to be working to reduce our carbon footprint and our impacts on fish and wildlife.

We are far past the point where each person on the planet can consume as many resources and create as many impacts as they like. The beautiful thing is that each of us is free to voluntarily limit our impacts and carbon footprint, and to revel in the additional freedom we experience as we simplify our lives.

"Americans have asked for maximum horsepower, sporty cars with big engines, SUVs and high-performance trucks. I think of it as the 'gluttony of America'."

Jim Downen

Retiring Flathead Auto Dealer, 2005

In the following pages, we'll discuss how each of us can help meet the challenges of climate change, learn to work with instead of against nature, and enjoy less stress as we return to a slower pace of life!

"The ecological challenges before us are as significant as humanity has ever faced. I believe we must each do whatever we can to protect the natural resources that sustain this planet because the need is nothing short of urgent. . . mine is to see that the foundation's entire endowment is spent in my lifetime."

Paul Brainerd

President, Brainerd Foundation, 2008

A Climate for Change: Doing our Part

“The universe of the wilderness, all over the United States, is vanishing with appalling rapidity...It is melting away like the last snow bank on some south facing mountain side during a hot afternoon in June.”

Bob Marshall circa 1939

Shortly before his death in 1939, Bob Marshall lamented the destruction of roadless lands by bulldozers, roads and logging (above). He could just as well have been talking about global warming, which is made worse by fossil fuel guzzling cars, trucks and heavy machinery - as well as by the release of carbon being stored naturally in trees.

Indeed, one thing we can do to reduce global warming is to protect roadless lands from development and use by mechanized vehicles. And this is exactly what the Wilderness designation sought by Marshall and his successors, including us, does.

When we adopt hiking and backpacking as our preferred form of backcountry

recreation, we don't need to work more to buy a big pickup truck to pull our big trailer full of motorcycles, ATVs and snowmobiles - nor buy the fossil fuels to keep them all running. Talk about freedom!

“We want no straddlers, for in the past they have surrendered too much good wilderness and primeval which should never have been lost. . . Above all we do not want in our ranks people whose first instinct is to look for compromise.”

Bob Marshall and Cofounders of The Wilderness Society, 1935

There are impacts and a carbon footprint to all forms of work and play, but we can celebrate each and every step we take to minimize them and have great fun doing so! And with each step we take to simplify our lives and slow them down, we'll be happier, less stressed, more resilient, and better able to cope with other changes that may seem forced upon us.



Backpacking into “The Bob.”

Keith Hammer photo



Bob Marshall backpacking! *USFS photo*

Three Miles per Hour: The Human Pace

As a pedestrian or hiker it is hard to not feel marginalized when overtaken by a motorized vehicle or bike. Along a busy highway, we are literally marginalized by being relegated to the shoulder if not the ditch. In the backcountry the displacement may be more subtle as we step off the trail to allow mountain bikes to pass.

But no matter how polite the bike passing, we are left feeling marginalized by a faster pace of travel and technology we've come to the backcountry to escape. It is not uncommon on a three day backpack to be passed by mountain bikers covering the same ground in an afternoon. The encounters are not always slow, calm and polite.

Our choices of technology directly affect our experiences of the natural world and public land management agencies rightly don't allow mountain bikes in Wilderness areas set aside for primitive, non-mechanized recreation. Industry-financed groups like the International Mountain Bike Association are pushing hard to open more trails, including National Scenic Trails, to mountain bikes - while others want bikes allowed in Wilderness areas as well.

We are an Alliance Member of the American Hiking Society, in part because it is working to prevent National Scenic Trails from being opened to mountain bikes. We are working to protect all roadless lands as off-limits to biking and as Wilderness.

Paul Salopek is walking 21,000 miles over the next 7 years to retrace 60,000 years of human migration. He writes:

"There is simply the act of traveling through the world at three miles per hour - the speed at which we were biologically designed to move. There is something mesmerizing about this pace that I still can't adequately describe. . . These are natural, limbic connections that reach back to the basement of time . . . It is learning to read the landscape with your whole body, your skin, not merely your eyes."

Paul Salopek



Stop, look, listen. Keith Hammer Photo



Zooooooooooooom! Pete Toscano Photo

Fire First-Hand: Natural Renewal!

Bears Galore!

I hiked up Jimmie Ridge this summer, through areas burned by wildfire in 2003. I couldn't believe the number of robins I was seeing and would later learn that the highest concentrations of this common bird are found in burned forests, not our backyards!

Shrub fields have flourished in the burned areas and huckleberries were plentiful. It turned into one of those hikes where I removed my bear spray from my belt and carried it in my hand while shouting around every corner in the trail. I stepped over several dozen piles of bear scat and recalled Fish, Wildlife and Parks telling me they knew of a dozen grizzly bears in the area capitalizing on bear foods in the burns.

In spite of the scores of research papers I've read about how wildfire benefits bears, it was this hike that would make that knowledge real in not just my mind but my heart. I was glad to see 250 scientists in October tell Congress "the resulting post-fire community is one of the most ecologically important and biodiverse habitat types" and that "post-fire logging does more harm than good."



Jimmie Ridge and burns.

Keith Hammer photo

Woodpeckers Galore!

A field tour of the 2012 Condon Mountain Fire area in November would find the Forest Service competing for our attention with a dozen woodpeckers feeding in an area slated for "salvage" logging. The woodpeckers were making the case that the trees, both live and dead, were of great use and didn't need "salvaging!"

Below is one of the photos we took of an American three-toed woodpecker pulling beetle larvae from a tree marked with logging paint. Our web site provides a link to our video of this woodpecker and a video featuring Dr. Dick Hutto describing how 50 bird species thrive in burned forests, with many needing nesting holes created by "pathfinder" woodpeckers like the American three-toed and black-backed. It also provides a link to the 250-scientist letter mentioned at left and a link for you to urge the District Ranger to not log these burned forests (www.swanview.org)!

As Dr. Hutto writes: "there are places to support traditional timber harvesting activity . . . burned forests are not among them."



Am. three-toed woodpecker.

Keith Hammer photo

Thank You for Meeting the Cinnabar Challenge Grant!

With members' help we met Cinnabar Foundation's Challenge Grant in November, doubling \$4,000 worth of your donations! We now ask the rest of you to help us raise the remaining \$14,000 needed to meet our budget for the year.

We did it last December and can again this year with your help! Won't you join with these other fine folks in supporting our work this year?

Johanna B.	Warren & June E.
Mayre F.	Jane A.
Gayle L. & Pete H.	Laura L.
Jim & Leiana T.	Gayle P. & Dan D.
Jim & Linda R.	Bill H. & Jill R.
Ross T.	Bob & Kathy H.
Rod M.	Mary & Gary B.
Karen B.	Roger & Linda B.
Leslie G.	Jim W. & Carol B.
Kim M.	Patricia H.
Richard H.	Bob & Carol H.
Elaine W.	Peter G.
Mark S.	Pam W.
David Z.	Daniel L.
Michael T.	Jana G.
Jeff & Maureen K.	Malcolm T.
Eve D.	Helen B.
Kevin F. & Liz K.	Scott & Jill L.
Franklin S.	Eileen M.
Tina O.	Jeff L.
Jim F. & Lisa D.	Susan W.
Debi S.	Joan G.
Norma L.	Ruth Q. & Bruce C.
Cindie J.	Bob & Laurie M.
Judy M.	Ann H.
Ned C.	Dick H.
Ned S.	Ralph D.
James C.	Wayne & Kay H.
Christin R.	Carol B.
George D.	Tom & Mary M.
Don J.	Carol B.
Riley & Pat M.	Alan & Sallie G.
Inger, L.	Mark & Candus S.
Karen & Tad L.	Dean R.
Craig M.	Don & Cathy E.-J.

Unsolicited Praise For Our Work!

"What would the wild Flathead be without you and all the work you do to protect it!" *Mayre F.*

"Thanks so much for the time, energy, and passion you have poured into your conservation work for the Swan Range." *Lex B.*

"Thank you for sending the call to action and making it easy!" *Mark S.*

"Swan View has come a long way from that meeting in an outbuilding years ago . . . I'm in awe of what the SVC has done, is doing, and will do." *James C.*

"Thank you for a beautiful and safe hike yesterday! And congratulations for your long-term commitment to sharing your love of these special places with all of us." *Carmine M.*

"I'm very glad to have connected with an interesting group of people with a shared interest." *Jeff P.*

"Great images! The addition of the maps to the weekly reports is a nice feature." *Dominic K.*

"We are happy to be able to support your great work again this year!" *Lisa M.*

Help Us Raise \$14,000 to Meet our Year-End Budget!

We rely in large part on member donations to fund our work protecting habitat for fish, wildlife and people. As we did last year, we again need to raise \$14,000 in December to meet our year-end budget. You can help us broaden our membership base by giving Gift Memberships at \$25 each, either on-line or using the donation form below!

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

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



Network for Good handles your transaction securely for us and informs us immediately via email of your donation by credit card. You can also choose to give monthly, quarterly or yearly there to make it easier or more affordable (or change your mind anytime)! If you have other info you want to get to us, such as Gift Membership info, simply email it to keith@swanview.org or mail them to the address in #1, above.

Please see page 6 for an abbreviated list of the folks you'll be joining in helping support our work - and many thanks to those of you that have already contributed to our successful match of Cinnabar Foundation's \$4,000 Challenge Grant!



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 \$500 to help secure grizzly, lynx and wolverine habitat for future generations.

Here's \$_____ to help save the world, one mountain range and one river at a time!

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: _____

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

Printed on Recycled Paper

Swan View's News

Holidays 2013



The Holidays: Renewed Hope and Resolve!

Executive Summary	page 1
Time to Pay the Fiddler and Rejoice!	page 2
A Climate for Change - Doing Our Part!	page 3
Three Miles per Hour: The Human Pace!	page 4
Fire First-Hand: Natural Renewal!	page 5
Thank You for Your Support and Praise of our Work!	page 6
Please Help us Raise \$14,000 in December to Meet our 2013 Budget!	page 7