

# Swan View's News

Holidays 2014



Swan View Coalition  
3165 Foothill Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

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

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## *Holiday Issue: The Tracks We Leave Behind!*

The Swan Rangers' first ski outing this winter crossed tracks of both bear and wolverine! Fun outings like these forge friendships and a shared commitment to protect the fish and wildlife that cannot speak for themselves!

We are blessed to still have such critters in the Swan Range. These experiences make us proud of the work we do and make us redouble our efforts to protect habitat and foster a culture of respectful, low-impact recreation.

This year marked our 30th Anniversary of protecting the Swan Range and other parts of the Northern Rockies bioregion. It also marked the 50th Anniversary of The Wilderness Act and allowed us to reconnect with the legendary Stewart Brandborg as we celebrated with a broad array of Wilderness activists.

But it is with great sadness that we bid goodbye to Martin Litton, who fought successfully to secure Redwood National Park and keep dams out of the Grand Canyon (see page 2). Uncompromising folks like Litton leave big tracks in their conservation legacy and even bigger shoes for us to fill! In that spirit we renew

our pledge to our members, fish and wildlife on page 3.

On page 4, we give thanks to those of you who have already made donations to support our work this year and we include a few words of unsolicited praise that have come our way recently! Indeed, it is our experiences in wild country and your support through kind words and donations that keep us going!

A special thanks goes out to those of you who helped us meet our Cinnabar challenge grant and, on page 5, we make our end-of-year plea to help us raise the remaining \$20,000 needed to meet our expenses this year. It's been an extra busy year with Flathead Forest Plan revision piled on top of our field work, research and lawsuits filed on behalf of fish and wildlife! We've done it before and will again - with your help!



*Bear tracks! Keith Hammer photo*

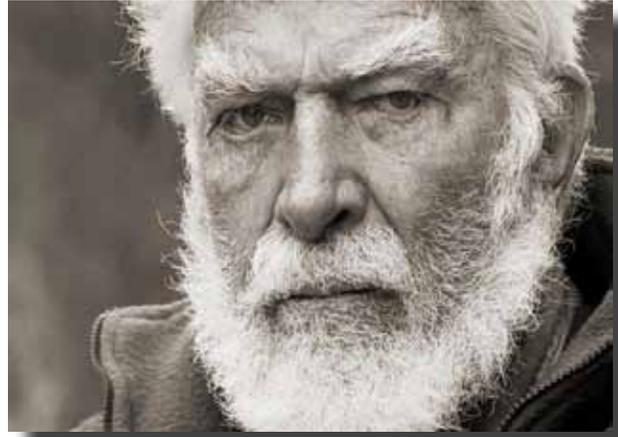
**HAPPY SOLSTICE,  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS,  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

*Keith*

## ***Martin Litton: May His Legacy and Spirit Live On!***

After 70 years on the front lines of the American environmental movement, Martin Litton died on November 30. He was key in getting Redwood National Park designated and worked alongside David Brower to prevent two dams from being built in Grand Canyon. Brower referred to the unflinching Litton as "our conscience."

David's son, Kenneth Brower, recently wrote about Litton being called passionate, original, tempestuous, stubborn, charming, obnoxious, courteous, inappropriate, dogged, fiery, and impossibly effective: "They describe, it strikes me, exactly those qualities that have gone missing from environmentalism itself. Environmental organizations are much bigger and richer than they ever were in Litton's heyday. They are also less stubborn and passionate . . . with more corporate influence on boards . . . much more deal-making with the other side, much less fire in the belly."



Martin Litton

*John Blaustein photo*

### ***Martin Litton in His Own Words:***

"To compromise is to lose . . . you don't have to be courageous to stand alone, you just have to be ornery."

"People always tell me not to be extreme. 'Be reasonable' they say. But I never felt it did any good to be reasonable about anything in conservation because what you give away will never come back - ever."

"I don't give a hoot what people think."

"What I'm worried about is life. And those things we're doing to extinguish life."

### ***David Brower on Martin Litton:***

"When I would waver in various conservation battles, he would put a little starch in my backbone by reminding me that we should not be trying to dicker and maneuver . . . and I'm grateful for it."

## *The Failings of Compromise and Our Pledge to You*

Compromise is a human construct at the root of our political systems. It is bringing our planet to the brink. If we step aside for a moment from our selfish wants and deal-making, we can see what is truly in our best interest is to recognize there are some basic rules of nature that can't be compromised.

Lame efforts to protect sage grouse can serve as an example of the insanity of compromise. Researchers have found that a distance of three miles is needed to keep oil and gas developments from disrupting the breeding grounds of the sage grouse. Montana Governor Steve Bullock's advisory panel recommended a distance of one mile. Industry objected to that, so Bullock compromised the science again and instead recommends 0.6 miles - as though that is adequate to protect sage grouse.

Even if we could all agree on how much carbon dioxide we humans can safely put into the atmosphere, our compromise-based political systems would allow more than that in order to supposedly protect the world economy while the planet continues to warm. As though that compromise would somehow be wise and sustainable.

While we work and govern in a political world, we live and breathe on a benevolent, living planet. It is high time to bring our politics in line with nature rather than think we can keep on compromising nature. Just how many times are we supposed to cut this baby in half?

We here in the U.S. are down to our last 5% of native forests and similar percentages of roadless public lands that serve as the last, best refugia for fish, wildlife and the healing powers of nature upon the soul.

This is hardly the time to be fooled into compromising what little remains in order to be "liked" by our political opponents.

So, our pledge to you is that we will continue to give voice to fish and wildlife through a combination of sci-

ence, law and advocacy. We will help foster human behavior that minimizes our impacts to fish and wildlife and other people. We will recognize there are some things that remain sacred and off-limits to compromise, such as the natural world, natural laws and our relationship to them. We will continue to fight for every last inch of wild country and seek out opportunities to restore that which has been harmed!.



The wild Swan Crest!

*Keith Hammer photo*

## *Please Join These Folks In Support our Hard Work!*

The folks listed below have already donated to support our work this year - and some will again in December. We need to raise the final \$20,000 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?

Jim P.	Warren E.	Dean R.
Christina E.	Anna C.	Kevin F.
Johanna B.	Ned S.	Liz K.
Nora J.	Brian P.	Donna M.
James C.	Bob H.	Tom M.
Peggy N.	Kathy H.	Edd B.
Don S.	Leslie S.	MaryB E.
Darl S.	Jim T.	David Z.
Mayre F.	Dan S.	Stuart C.
Linda G.	Pam W.	Joe S.
Riley M.	Joel H.	Gayle P.
Pat M.	Alan G.	Don J.
Tim S.	Sallie G.	Cathy E.
Sukey P.	Mark S.	Milt C.
Eve D.	Craig M.	B.J. C.
Christine D.	Mike W.	Karen H.
Lloyd J.	Bob H.	Virginia N.
Debi S.	Carol H.	Tom C.
Linda B.	Ralph D.	Laura N.
Claudia N.	Kraig K.	Sonya C.
Norma L.	Katie A.	Elaine S.
John L.	Frances W.	John N.
Bill H.	Dwight V.	Hope N.
Jim F.	Ed Z.	Ann H.
Cindie J.	Judy Z.	Joel V.
Ned C.	Nancy F.	Gayle L.
Val F.	Joan T.	Pete H.
Jim N.	Roseanne B.	Peter G.
Steve R.	Ruth Q.	Danielia K.
Paul M.	Bruce C.	Michael T.
George D.	Roger B.	Ken D.
Karen L.	Linda B.	George B.
Tad L.	Hank R.	Jordonna D.
Rebekah J.	Carol B.	Mary S-B.
Inger L.	Bob M.	Colleen S.
Chris G.	Thomas R.	Julie B.
Fawn S.	Keith H.	Don B.

## *Unsolicited Praise For Our Work!*

"We like troublemakers! Thanks for insisting on dialogue. Takes courage and gumption." *Jim N.*

"Your work to protect the wildlands of the Swan Range has been continual, ground-breaking and inspiring. Thank you for this work and your leadership over the years." *Lex B.*

"Besides having nearly 30 years of experience in the Flathead, [Keith has] personally walked many/most of these acres, and is responsible for most of the substantive grizzly protection up here." *Brian P.*

"I really enjoyed your talk last week at the Mansfield Center Conference. I thought it was excellent and that you presented your view with logic and clarity and passion." *Martin N.*

"Grass roots organizations driven by selfless people like yourselves have created immense benefits for their communities. Thank you." *Joel H.*

"You're one to use as a symbol of the very best in leadership and gentle, persuasive treatment of people." *Stewart B.*

"Glad to be able to once again support great work." *Dave Z.*

## Help Us Raise \$20,000 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. A bit more than last year, we need to raise \$20,000 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](http://www.swanview.org) or [www.swanrange.org](http://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](mailto:keith@swanview.org) or mail them to the address in #1, above.

**Won't you join the people listed on page 4 and help support our work? We only receive a few foundation grants each year, so it's people like you that make our work possible!**



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: \_\_\_\_\_

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# *Swan View's News*

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## *Holiday Issue: The Tracks We Leave Behind!*

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