

# Swan View's News

Summer-Fall 2015



Swan View Coalition  
3165 Foothill Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

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

[www.swanview.org](http://www.swanview.org)  
[www.swanrange.org](http://www.swanrange.org)  
[swanview@swanview.org](mailto:swanview@swanview.org)

## *As the Global Climate Warms, So Do the Politics!*

June was record hot and July record dry here in the Flathead, following on the heels of a low winter snow-pack that normally saturates forest soils during Spring. Though climate warming has already lengthened the wildfire season by 20% or 78 days, that hasn't stopped timber industry advocates and hazy politicians from instead blaming smoky skies on too little logging of public forests (see page 4)!

In spite of the physical and political heat, we continue our work and celebrate our achievements. On June 27, the Swan Rangers celebrated their 500th outing (page 2)! Cinnabar Foundation has issued us another Challenge Grant and increased it to \$4,500, which we must match with your donations by November 30 (page 7)!

We continue our campaign to get some of the Flathead's most remote and damaging roads decommissioned, especially those in key bull trout watersheds, elk and grizzly bear habitat. This summer, a lightning-caused wildfire in Bunker Creek burned

one of three long-abandoned bridges we've advocated be removed for decades. We'll be working with a coalition of groups to see that the remainder of the Bunker Creek road is put properly to bed, not rebuilt. Last year's massive road slump in Sullivan Creek has now claimed the entire road bed and we're working to get this long-closed road properly put to bed too (page 5).

We've worked with the Southwest Crown Collaborative to list on its web site all federal and other funding sources for its projects. This information is now on-line so the public can see how much the Forest Service is paying its collaborative "partners"

that support "restoration" logging and other projects (page 3)!

Don't miss our annual membership meeting November 22, followed by potluck dinner and a Swan Range community music jam session (page 6)!



Vegetation already re-sprouting in 2015 fire area!

Keith

## *Swan Rangers Celebrate 500th Saturday Outing!*

The Swan Rangers celebrated their 500th Saturday outing on June 27 with a hike to Elk Springs, where they toasted with champaign, sparkling apple juice and homemade huckleberry wine!

The first outing was in November, 2005, and 491 different people have since participated in these fun outings (yes, Swan Rangers are a little bit different)!

The outings are every Saturday year-round and knowledge about plants, geology, and wildlife, as well as juicy local gossip, is shared.

The Rangers also have a volunteer agreement with the Forest Service and since 2011 have done 667 hours of volunteer trail maintenance work!

For more information about the Swan Rangers, visit:

<http://www.swanrange.org>



Swan Rangers toast their 500th outing!

## *Montana ATVs Spew 132 Million Pounds CO<sub>2</sub>!*

A University of Montana report finds that Montana Off-Highway Vehicle users buy 6.6 million gallons of gasoline per year in pursuit of their sport. Multiply this by the 20 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> released per gallon, and MT residents spew 132 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per year into the atmosphere. Non-resident gas consumption was not estimated.

Based on a similar UM report for snowmobiling, our [Fall 2014 newsletter](#) noted pursuit of that sport in MT spews 192 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> into the sky each year, bringing the MT sum of climate-warming pollution in the name of motorized "fun" to 324 million pounds per year!

Let's leave motor vehicles at the trail-head, if not at home! Links to the two UM reports are listed at the bottom of this page.



Now-outlawed motorcycle race in Krause Basin!

<http://www.bber.umt.edu/survey/..%5Cpubs%5Csurvey%5CMontanaOHVStudy2013.pdf>  
<http://www.bber.umt.edu/survey/..%5Cpubs%5Csurvey%5CMontanaSnowmobiling2014.pdf>

## *The Forest Service is Paying Collaborative Partners!*

Imagine a world where you donate some time working on a Forest Service project and the Forest Service pays you up to four times what that in-kind donation is worth to continue working on it. This is the world Congress created in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 as the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP).

The Southwest Crown Collaborative (SWCC) in the Swan-Clearwater-Blackfoot area is one of the collaborative efforts being funded by CFLRP via the Forest Service. Because the Act requires that the collaborative process be "transparent and non-exclusive," we asked and the SWCC agreed to list on its web site its formal partners, their contributions to projects, and federal contributions to those partners and projects.

In a nutshell, Congress through CFLRP will fund half of the costs of the projects if the Forest Service and its partners fund the other half. Partners need only provide one-fifth of the total project costs, often as in-kind, non-cash donations of work. This minimum one-fifth contribution then entitles the partner to receive federal funds to do work that otherwise would be done by federal employees or under competitive contracts with private businesses.

In a hypothetical example provided by the Forest Service and lodged on the SWCC web site, a partner can consider \$2,000 of its work expenses as a non-cash contribution to a project. The Forest Service would pay

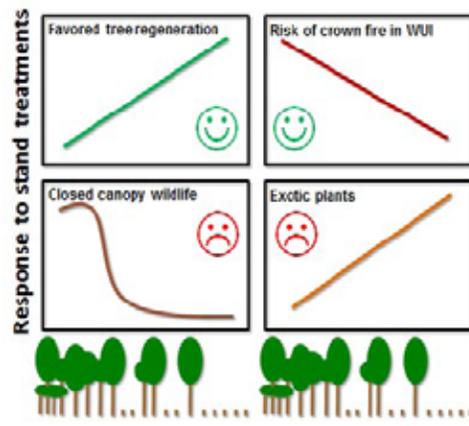
the partner \$5,000 cash, which may include CFLRP funds, "to pay for the partner's salary, fuel for vehicles, and supplies toward the project." In a real-life SWCC example, one non-profit has received \$2.5 million in federal funds for its non-cash, in-kind contributions of \$903 thousand.

While these funds on the one hand enable partners to do some monitoring and watershed restoration work by repairing or decommissioning roads, it also appears to silence public criticisms by partners of the more controversial timber sales being conducted under the guise of "forest restoration." Moreover, some SWCC partners have collectively promoted "restoration" logging and [asked Congress to work with collaborators and not with "organizations and individuals who oppose collaborative approaches to forest management."](#)

It is this type of bully behavior by partners that casts a long shadow over the integrity of CFLRP, which at the 5-year/halfway mark is far ahead of its logging quotas and far behind in decommissioning roads and controlling the invasive weeds they bring to the forest. Citizens and scientists that disagree for good reason with the notion that logging is "restoration" (see page 4) deserve equal standing with collaborators being paid millions of tax dollars by the Forest Service.

To see how over \$7 million of your tax dollars have thus far been paid to partners in the SWCC, visit:

<http://www.swcrown.org/partnership-agreements>



SWCC Monitoring Workshop Graphic

## *Another Summer of Industry's Discontent!*

When there is wildfire smoke in the air, the timber industry and its cronies in Congress blame it on a lack of logging. As though logging prevents wildfires, which it does not. Moreover, they blame the alleged lack of logging on lawsuits brought by conservation groups simply wanting to insure the Forest Service follows the law as it logs public fish and wildlife habitat.

In February, Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), emphatically and falsely [told Montana Public Radio](#) "Unfortunately, every logging sale in Montana right now is under litigation. Every one of them." Listeners, including Swan View Coalition, challenged Tester's statement. [The](#)

[Washington Post](#) [investigated](#) and found there to be 97 timber sales under contract in Montana's national forests with only 14 of those being litigated and only 4 of those stopped by a court order! The Post awarded Tester "Four Pinocchios" and noted the Forest Service responded

"Things should be litigated that need to be litigated. If there is something the Forest Service has missed, it is very healthy. We absolutely should be tested on that."

Then politicians and the Forest Service went back to lying as though this never happened. [Representative Ryan Zinke \(R-MT\)](#) [visited Essex](#) on the border between Glacier National Park and the Flathead National Forest and claimed the summer's

wildfire smoke "is completely avoidable." He went on to promote his Resilient Federal Forests Act, that would speed up federal logging and require citizens to post unaffordable bonds before suing the Forest Service to make it follow environmental laws. He then proposed that future Wilderness designations allow logging to reduce fires.

Such proposals fly in the face of federal studies like the Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Project, which found roads and logging render ecosystems less resilient to natural disturbances like fire. Countless other studies find large trees, including fire-killed trees, are essential for fish and

wildlife habitat.

Forest Service research shows that forest thinning within the last couple hundred feet of our homes and structures helps save them, not distant logging where fire helps renew natural ecosystems. This summer's fire that burned the remote and abandoned Bun-



Bunker Creek bridge after 2015 wildfire.

*USFS photo*

ker Creek bridge shown here was started by lightning in an area burned in 2000.

We've supported thinning around the village of Swan Lake, the Spotted Bear Ranger Station, guest ranches, and trailheads, but such thinning needs to be repeated often to remain effective. Neither the American taxpayer nor our natural ecosystems can afford to apply such front-country logging to the distant back-country.

## *Time To Decommission Sullivan and Bunker Roads!*

In the 1950s, the Flathead National Forest hoped to build logging roads that would connect the Swan Valley to Highway 2 near Marias Pass via Sullivan Creek and/or Bunker Creek, the Spotted Bear River, and Shafer Ranger Station along the upper Middle Fork Flathead River. That's right, logging roads clear over the Swan and Flathead mountain ranges!

Unfortunately, the Forest Service built major roads up Sullivan Creek, Bunker Creek, the Spotted Bear River, and along the Continental Divide in the Skyland area before it could be stopped. One of the chief opponents of these roads was Bob Cooney, the first wildlife biologist hired by Montana Fish and Game.

He sent his [hand-made copy of the Forest Service's proposed road system](#) to The Wilderness Society's Howard Zahniser in 1954, noting the then-proposed Bob Marshall Wilderness area needed to be expanded northward to thwart the roads so they would not inhibit "the free exchange of grizzly bear between Glacier and the Bob Marshall region." Though the Bob Marshall Wilderness area was not extended northward by the time it was formally designat-

ed by the 1964 Wilderness Act, staunch wilderness advocates including the late Loren Kreck would persist and get the Great Bear Wilderness designated northward along the Flathead Range and Middle Fork Flathead River in 1978, keeping the roads from being connected to Highway 2!

Following decades of grizzly bear research, the Forest Service finally closed the Bunker Creek and Sullivan Creek roads permanently to provide adequate wildlife security. But it has refused to decommission



Sullivan Creek Road continues spewing itself into Sullivan Creek!

these roads by removing bridges and culverts so they don't end up eroding into what is now designated "critical habitat" for threatened bull trout.

As the photos on this and page 4 show, these roads are falling apart and ending up in the creeks. We

are working with a number of groups to get these roads fully decommissioned. Getting the Flathead to recommend Wild and Scenic designation for Bunker and Sullivan creeks would help get them designated, which in turn would make new funding sources available to decommission the roads.

And we'll never stop advocating for Wilderness designation of the Swan Crest to keep roads from ever crossing over it!

## ***Annual Meeting Nov 22 Followed by Potluck and Music!***

Please join us for our Annual Membership Meeting Sunday, November 22, at 4pm. We'll meet at the Mountain Brook Community Library at 2353 Foothill Road.

We'll spend an hour electing officers, discussing a bit of business, and summarizing the past year's challenges and accomplishments!

Then we'll enjoy a potluck dinner and socializing in a relaxed atmosphere!

Dinner will be followed by a regularly scheduled Swan Range Community Music Jam Session at 6pm for those who wish to stay! You don't have to play an instrument to enjoy this low key get together!

We hope you can join us for a bit of business and a whole lot of FUN!



Swan Rangers hold a non-business lunch meeting in the Red Owl burn along Peterson Creek Trail!

## ***Recent Unsolicited Praise of our Work and Play!***

*Thanks for monitoring and reporting violations within and against the pristine characteristics of our wilderness and wild lands.*

Mike M.

*Great job on the newsletter. I have immense respect for those amongst us who tell it like it is.*

Brian H.

*You are very good at laying out the argument, and it doesn't come off as idealistic but rather pragmatic: clear as a bell.*

Billi W.

*Your interview on Montana Public Radio was excellent. Thank you for being voices for things wild!*

Jamie L.

*Thanks for all your hard work and keeping this group alive and vibrant!*

Annegret P.

*And that's why my donation always goes to Swan View Coalition!*

David Z.

*I couldn't help but forward your [interactive map] to T. and K. at Google. They will be thrilled to see how you have been able to utilize these tools to further the great work you are doing.*

Lisa M.

## Your Donations Again Doubled by Cinnabar Foundation!

Cinnabar Foundation has increased its Challenge Grant to us this year to \$4,500 - **so donate by November 30th to get your money doubled by Cinnabar!**

We rely in large part on member donations to fund our work protecting habitat for fish, wildlife and people. You can help us broaden our membership base by giving Gift Memberships at \$25 each, either on-line or using the donation form below! **It's easy to join others in supporting our work:**



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** found there (or above)!

**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.



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.  
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Kalispell, MT 59901

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