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SELWAY-BITTERROOT FRANK CHURCH FOUNDATION

the WILDEST PLACE

Newsletter of the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation

SUMMER 2015

people · wilderness · stewardship

Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation

Summer 2015

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The Wildest Place is the membership newsletter of the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation. With the support of members, local businesses, and generous grantors, the SBFC is committed to connecting citizens and communities to assist in the stewardship of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, and surrounding wildlands.

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The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2015 field season has begun! We have an outstanding group of **six Wilderness Professionals and ten Wilderness Ranger Interns,** plus a lengthy list of eager volunteers. Staff and interns completed two full weeks of extensive training in May and received Wilderness First Responder and crosscut saw certification and training. They also received excellent pack stock training from "Pack Guru" Jim Renshaw and the Binninger family—with kids, Flora and Clem, teaching the how-tos of horse and mule handling. The Lochsa Historical Ranger Station was headquarters for training and housing—many thanks to Connie Saylor-Johnson and the Forest Service for this great location!

We have **13 wilderness volunteer projects** in the Selway and the Frank this season. We also have a new partnership project this year with the Wilderness Land Trust. Together we will host a weekend volunteer project on the Salmon River. The historic Painter Mine was recently purchased by the Wilderness Land Trust and we will restore the site for inclusion in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. For more information and to sign up for projects go to: www.selwaybitterroot.org/volunteer-now.

A warm welcome to **Ari Kotler, our newest Board Member** (see below).

October 22 - Save the date! SBFC is again bringing the **Telluride Mountain Film Festival** to Boise's Egyptian Theatre. Watch our Facebook page and website for film and ticket information.

Also in October, we are launching the **SBFC Author Series** at Rediscovered Books in downtown Boise. Featured authors will include local and regional authors who will talk about a variety of topics relating to the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

We are looking forward to a successful and memorable season followed by an action-packed fall.

Sally Ferguson
Executive Director

WELCOME Ari Kotler

We are pleased to welcome Ari Kotler to the Board of Directors of the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation. Ari, who lives with his wife and daughter in Driggs, Idaho, is owner of S.O.A.R. Northwest River Company. He has been an outfitter on the Selway for the past five years and will soon be outfitting on the Main Salmon. Ari has a long history of non-profit work, a unique industry perspective, and a commitment to collaboration and partnership. Ari serves as Board Member on the Idaho Outfitter and Guides Association where he is River Vice President. Ari says that, "rivers are the primary gateway to these great Wilderness areas and rivers are my passion. I take great pride in sharing and protecting the wilderness resources."

Ed Krumpe
Board President

HAPPY TRAILS TO Eric Melson

Eric started with SBFC as an intern in 2009 (our first crop!). A young man with a pony-tail came on board with energy, enthusiasm and a strong work ethic – much needed skills for a fledgling organization. Too good to let go, Eric became our first program director, first for the Selway-Bitterroot and later for the Frank Church. Although he lost the pony-tail, Eric over his five years as a part of the SBFC staff, maintained his contagious enthusiasm and strong work ethic for engaging youth, volunteers, and partners in wilderness stewardship. We say farewell to a dear friend and wish Eric all the best wherever the next trail takes him.

Lisa Gerloff
Past Chair

Where Are They Now?

This is the first installment of interviews collected from our past interns. D Pettit, retired SBFC Board Member, spent several months contacting and corresponding with interns who have graduated from college and started their careers. Dee's objective was to learn what the interns are doing now and if the SBFC internship was a significant factor in their career path.

DREW WENDEBORN – SUMMER INTERN - 2010

After Drew's summer internship with the SBFC, he went back to school at Texas A&M and graduated with a degree in Spatial Sciences. Drew's first job was a temporary position with the Bexar County Appraisal District GIS department in San Antonio. He continued to apply for numerous permanent positions throughout the country.

After passing on multiple GIS job offers, Drew finally found a great position with a remote sensing company, Watershed Sciences. Most of the work at Watershed Sciences involved airborne surveys for natural resource management. The LiDAR airborne surveys are eventually converted to data used to create the topographic maps we're all familiar with. Drew's first position was as a Ground Survey Professional which had him traveling around the country setting up GPS equipment to assist the aircraft. In fact, Drew's first project was mapping the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness area.

It was the experience and training that he gained through his internship with the (then) Selway-Bitterroot Foundation, that gave him the credentials to land a position with Watershed Sciences. Drew's current job requires that he work unsupervised in the field for weeks at a time, it was that same work experience with the SBFC that ensured that he was trustworthy and could meet expectations without close supervision. Drew is happy that the data he has helped to collect is still being used for Wilderness management.

Drew is incredibly thankful for the opportunity to intern with the Foundation as it has directly shaped his trajectory in life. With backcountry in his blood, he continues to be an avid advocate for Wilderness Stewardship, and hikes and skis the Wilderness areas near his new home of Portland, Oregon.

WELCOME 2015 Wilderness Ranger Interns

This year the SBFC received over eighty applications from across the nation for the Wilderness Ranger Intern position. We are proud to bring aboard ten new interns who are learning new skills, forging new territory, and creating their own personal definition for stewarding our nation's dedicated wilderness areas. We are honored have such a fine group of young people who are passionate about the work we do and the work they will do moving forward.

Peter Breigenzer - Payette NF – University Of Montana
Peter is a senior studying Organismal Biology & Ecology and Environmental Studies. He was born and raised in Glasgow, Montana and his hobbies include hiking, climbing, and reading.

Monte Cole - Payette NF – Washington University, St. Louis
Monte is currently studying English Literature. Southwestern Montana will always lay claim to the title of "home". Prior to this summer, Monte had worked summer jobs in Livingston, Montana, where he grew up. Reading in the sun or at the desk late at night, long bouts of cooking and digestion, and cathartic, exploratory runs on the backroads and trails in Montana never cease to reward him.

Susan Eisenbraun - Nez Perce-Clearwater NF – University of Idaho
Susan previously worked as a soccer referee, a house Kitchen Planner, and at a summer Boy Scout Camp. Susan's major is Natural Resource Conservation, with an emphasis in Conservation Planning Management, and a minor in Outdoor Recreation Leadership. Susan is from Rapid City, South Dakota.

Nolan Fromm - Nez Perce-Clearwater NF – Colorado College
Nolan is from Missoula, Montana and currently studying Environmental Science. He's held a myriad of jobs over the past few years, everything from the Resort Ranch at Paws Up, to the Le Petite Bakery in Missoula, to IT support on campus. In his free time he loves backpacking, rafting, and reading. Nolan's non-major studies range from film to philosophy. Being in the outdoors and enjoying the natural beauty of his home state have always been top priority for Nolan.

Jake Henry - Nez Perce-Clearwater – Eastern Kentucky University
Jake was born and raised in Wilmington, Ohio. Jake's major is Recreation Park Administration. During the school term Jake works at the Climbing Rock Wall and the High Ropes Challenge Course. He loves hiking, camping, fishing, and playing sports. In Jake's words, "I am so excited to be a Wilderness Ranger Intern"!

Adam Hoge - Salmon-Challis NF – University of Montana
Adam grew up along the Rocky Mountain front in Choteau, Montana. After high school graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps for 4 years and served 2 tours of combat in Iraq. Adam is currently finishing up his last semester with a degree in Parks, Tours, and Recreation Management. Adam hopes to eventually become a Wildlife Marshal for Montana FWP.

Melinda Horne - Bitterroot NF – University of Montana
Melinda is a junior studying Resource Conservation. She has a minor in Wilderness Studies and is interested in the dynamic relationship between humans and the environment. In January of 2015 she went with the College of Forestry to southern Chile to study sustainable tourism and local livelihoods. In 2014 she was a crew member in Helena for the Montana Conservation Corps. Melinda is from Idaho, but Montana has her heart.

Tyler Lee - Salmon-Challis NF – Western State Colorado University
Mile High Youth Corps-Southern Front Range Tyler is a 19 year-old AmeriCorps alum who embodies the values of the corps as well as the spirit of Colorado. Tyler is pursuing a double major in environment and sustainability, and recreation and outdoor education, along with a minor in biology. He has career ambitions in the field of wilderness management.

Taryn Schreiner - Nez Perce-Clearwater NF – Northern Arizona University
Taryn will be a senior next year studying Geology, Environmental Science, and GIS. She was raised in Enumclaw, Washington, a small farming community located on the west of the Cascade Mountains in western Washington. Taryn's long-term goal in life is to make a positive impact on the preservation and conservation of our world's wildlands.

Carly Stinson - Bitterroot NF – University of Montana
Carly is majoring in Environmental Studies. She hails from Olympia, Washington where she discovered her love of hiking, running, climbing, photography, and adventure.

2015 STAFF AND INTERNS - (Intern names in **bold**) *Back Row LtoR:* Claire Muller, Ben Stein, Brendan Casey, **Taryn**, **Susan**, **Peter**, **Carley**, **Adam**, **Monte**, **Melinda**, **Tyler**, **Nolan**, Steph Wright, Greg Aerni *Front Row LtoR:* Dylan Barbash, Erick Schweitzer, Coby Gierke, **Jake**

2015 Volunteer Projects

June 18-21
One Horse Lake Trail #326
Clearing and Campsite Monitoring
(Bitterroot NF)
SBFC and volunteers will clear the popular One Horse Lake trail near Carlton Lake and Iconic Lolo Peak. This is an important seasonal maintenance project that has not seen US Forest Service crew maintenance in many years.

June 20-27
Yellowjacket Trail Clearing
(Salmon-Challis NF)
A great deal of work was accomplished in 2013. We are aiming to finish work on the Upper Yellowjacket Trail #038 in 2015. We plan to build a long turnpike structure and some french drains in a few remaining boggy spots.

July 4-5
St. Mary's Peak Lookout Trail Opening
(Bitterroot NF)
The SBFC and the USFS will open the trail to the iconic St. Mary's Peak Fire Lookout. Volunteers will work with SBFC crew to restore damaged alpine slopes adjacent to the trail. Trail work will be done above treeline in one of the most scenic areas of the state of Montana.

July 4-11
Middle Fork Volunteer Trail Clearing
(Salmon-Challis NF)
We will be clearing trees and improving trail conditions on the first twenty miles of trail alongside the Middle Fork. Basecamp gets packed along on a string of mules! This is a unique project, working one-direction, bumping camp every day and flying out from Indian Creek Guard Station.

July 13–19
Harrington Ridge Trail Clearing Project
(Bitterroot NF)
This trail is located in the northern portion of the iconic Frank Church River of no Return Wilderness area. We will be traveling deep into this seldom-visited corner of the largest Wilderness area in the continental United States. We'll be clearing trails and monitoring campsites.

July 14-19
Big Sand Lake Trail Clearing and Improvement Project
(Nez-Perce/Clearwater NF)
The crew will spend the days cutting out logs, building trail drainage structures and rehabbing old campsites.

July 17-19
Painter Mine Clean Up
During this weekend project we will clean up the Painter Mine site, located on the Main Salmon River. This is a partnership project with the Wilderness Land Trust. In 2014 the historic Painter Mine was purchased by the Wilderness Land Trust. We will restore the site for inclusion in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

July 26-August 2
American Hiking Society
South Fork of Big Creek Project
(Bitterroot National Forest)
The crew will clear over 300 downed trees from the three mile long trail to South Fork and Pearl Lakes. We will also improve trail tread.

August 2-8
Sierra Club Big Creek Divide
and Packbox Pass Project
(Bitterroot National Forest)
The project is aimed at improving the Big Creek Divide and Packbox Saddle trails of the Selway Bitterroot Mountains. Volunteers and SBFC staff members will work on projects ranging from logging out neglected trails to monitoring and inventorying campsites in this high mountain valley.

August 8-15
Indian Creek Volunteer Trail Clearing
(Salmon-Challis NF)
Picking up where we left off in 2014, we're heading back to Indian Creek one of the Frank's most secluded and wild west side drainages. Our trip includes a walk in from Chilcoot Pass, basecamping on the headwaters of Indian Creek and working on clearing downfall with cross-cut saws.

August 23-29
Lost Horse Trail #430 Widening and Improvement Project
(Nez-Perce/Clearwater NF)
Volunteers will be joining forces with SBFC Project Leaders and USFS Nez-Perce National Forest Staff to complete an exciting trail improvement project on the Lost Horse Trail in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area of Idaho. The goal of this project will be to remove obtrusive rocks using a combination of hammers, pry bars, and dynamite. Volunteers will work with certified USFS blasters to design and detonate highly sophisticated explosive systems.

August 28 – 31
High Lake Trail Clearing and Repair Project
(Bitterroot NF)
We will clear and repair the long neglected High Lake Trail in scenic Blodgett Canyon. We plan to rebuild blown out sections of switchbacks, install drainage structures and log out downed trees.

September 10-15
Lochsa Peak Area Cut and Run Project
(Nez-Perce/Clearwater NF)
We will be working to cut out logs and brush from the trail while stopping along the way to take inventory of old campsites and restore areas that have been damaged by misuse in the past.

September 24–27
Boulder Creek Trail and Stanley Hot Springs Trail Clearing and Campsite Monitoring
(Nez-Perce/Clearwater NF)
We will be clearing trails, restoring old campsites, and building trail drains.

21CSC AWARD Working Towards New Partnerships

The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation has been awarded membership to the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps. The 21CSC National Council is committed to working in partnership with organizations like the SBFC Foundation to connect youth and veterans with job and training opportunities protecting, restoring and enhancing America's natural and cultural resources.

Through the 21CSC, young people and veterans will accomplish meaningful work, gain important personal and professional skills, and build a lifelong connection to the outdoors. Increasing diversity and expanding opportunities for *all* youth and veterans are core 21CSC principles.

The SBFC Foundation is excited about this new, national partnership and are working to develop more programs tailored specifically to engaging youth and veterans.

Birds of a Feather Bike Together

The SBFC Boise November Fundraiser was all about experience and adventure. Auction items such as a group hiking trips, fly fishing, skiing, and whitewater rafting were just some of the themes for auction packages. The trifecta trip; "Biking, Birding, and Beer"- hosted by bird expert, Gary Worthington was a partial-day outing in late April.

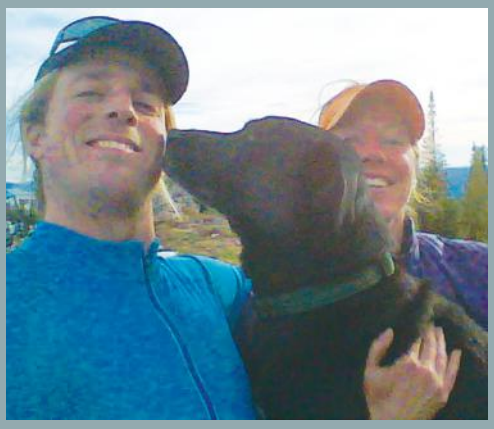
Seven cyclists, plus Gary, spent the morning bicycling along Boise's greenbelt in search of birds. The list of sightings included wood ducks, flickers, and even a double-breasted cormorant in a tree near the quarry on the edge of Eagle Island State park. Also spotted was a pied billed grebe, mallards, coots, four species of swallows, a great blue heron, northern shovelers, common mergansers and a loon.

The trip detoured mid-day to the Crooked Fence Tasting room on Chinden Blvd. Sightings there were classified as Scottish Ale, Stouts, Ambers and IPA. All in all the group spotted 31 species of birds and tasted an abundant variety of local beers. Thank you Gary for a wonderful outing!

Mary Barker -toasting after our successful ride.

L-R: Mary Barker, Ken Barker, Dick Lawson, Gary Worthington, Murray Feldman, Nancy Feldman, Sue Myers, Jeannie Strozier-Wagner.

SB Hikers hit "Pay Dirt"



There's lots of items a person loads into a backpack for a trip into the Wilderness. One would think that a zip-lock bag filled with a bounty of cash wouldn't be on the pack list. So why was it found in the Selway on Trail #213 between McConnel Mountain and Bear Mountain Lookout? Kyle Scharfe and his wife Caryn still don't have an answer to that very question.

On June 21 (Summer Solstice-a significant day for Kyle) 2014, Kyle and Caryn were on one of the many trails they enjoy in the Selway-Bitterroot - a typical day except for what they found on the trail. What they thought was just a piece of trash to pick up and pack out turned out to be a wet, moldy zip-lock bag of fragile bills. Careful not to destroy the contents, they carefully extracted each of the bills and placed them on a rock to dry. Eight $100 bills later the bag was empty. Kyle immediately thought that perhaps they'd uncovered a part of the D.B. Cooper mystery. For those who are unfamiliar with the story, according to Wikipedia *"D. B. Cooper remains an unidentified man who hijacked a Boeing 727 aircraft in the airspace between Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington, on November 24, 1971, extorted $200,000 in ransom (equivalent to $1,160,000 in 2015), and parachuted to an uncertain fate. Despite an extensive manhunt and an ongoing FBI investigation, the perpetrator has never been located or positively identified. The case remains the only unsolved air piracy in American aviation history."*

No matter what the origin, the money was not the Scharfe's. Kyle and Caryn gave the stack of bills to the Nez Clear Forest Service Office in hopes that it would be claimed by the rightful owner. It was then that the Scharfes learned the Forest Service policy for lost items. If no one has claimed an item after 90 days, the item will either be sold/auctioned or destroyed. When it comes to cash those outcomes are not options. The Forest Service eventually returned the cash to the Scharfes.

It was important to Kyle and Caryn that the money be returned to the land and that it be invested wisely. Knowing about the SBFC mission and work, the Scharfes donated half of the money to the SBFC Foundation, while other environmental organizations, that are also important to the Scharfes, received smaller portions of the remaining half.

The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation is grateful to Kyle and Caryn for the generous donation. The donation was allocated to the SBFC Warren Miller Intern Fund, a fund dedicated to sponsorship money for incoming SBFC seasonal college interns. This gift will continue the Warren Miller legacy as the interns begin their careers and life's work promoting the Wilderness Stewardship mission.

BIGHORN CRAGS CAMPGROUND STEWARDS

Chris and Jeff McGee

The long bumpy drive into the Bighorn Crags begins on the Porphyry Creek Road near Moyer in the Panther Creek Valley on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The road is the only full-sized vehicle access into Yellow Jacket, Yellow Jacket Lake, Middle Fork Peak Lookout, Hoodo Meadows, and the Bighorn Crags Campground and Trailhead. This is the ultimate destination for many visitors seeking to experience the beauty and solitude of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

After driving up the drainage, the road forks in a saddle below Quarzite Mountain and visitors can opt to travel towards Yellow Jacket or the Crags Campground. For those heading into the Bighorn Crags, the rough road continues for several miles with a view of the majestic Crags. After what seems like hours, visitors finally arrive at a small, remote campground and are immediately greeted by the Crags Campground Stewards, Chris and Jeff McGee.

Chris and Jeff McGee are from Nampa, Idaho. Jeff, a retired Prudential Insurance Representative and Chris, a retired science teacher, have worked with the Forest Service since 1999. Both have an incredible passion for recreation and wilderness. They also have many relationships with Forest Service employees, conservation crews, and volunteers they have met and worked with over the last 16 years.

In 1999-2002, Chris and Jeff worked on the Sawtooth National Forest's Fairfield Ranger District conducting botanical surveys for the range management program. From 2003-2005, they worked at Paradise in the Bitterroot where they assisted with the permit season on the Selway, maintained dispersed campsites, and ran a small "quasi-coffee shop" and news hub. In 2006-2008, Chris and Jeff returned to the Fairfield Ranger District and assisted with botanical and range surveys. In 2009-2011, Chris and Jeff decided they need a break from range work and returned to the Selway. During this time, they had an opportunity to begin building relationships with representatives from the Selway Foundation and wilderness managers on the West Fork District. In 2012, they accepted a position at the Bowery on the East Fork of the Salmon and also assisted with range survey work. In 2013, they again returned to Fairfield Ranger District to help a retiring Forest Service range specialist. In 2014, Chris and Jeff met Amanda Parker, Lead Wilderness Steward for the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation, at a fund raising event in Boise, Idaho. Amanda asked if they were interested in being stewards at the Crags. This year has been a great start to a wonderful partnership between the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation and the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Chris and Jeff McGee are a shining example of the many volunteers who help the Forest Service not only in Idaho, but across the nation. Their dedication and passion for conserving natural resources and being wilderness stewards is helping the Forest Service fulfill its mission of caring for the land and serving the people.

Cabin and Lookout Hosting

This past May Brook Sutton of The Adventure Journal Newsletter (an online magazine devoted to outdoor adventure in all its forms) interviewed our own Coby Gierke about our cabin and lookout hosting volunteer program. Below are excerpts from that interview……..

Do you still have volunteer openings available for 2015? We do still have a few opportunities available for 2015. We have no formal deadline but we would like to have applications in about a month before the hosting opportunity starts.

If there were an "average" day spent volunteering through this program, what would it look like? The volunteer's time is [generally] spent maintaining the backcountry cabins, working on the local trails, interacting with the public, and helping SBFC educate hikers about our work and our mission. An average day for a host would usually consist of a radio check-in with USFS dispatch in the morning, followed by listening to the day's weather report over the USFS radio network. Then hosts could perform a variety of duties including light trail clearing on the trails near the site, building maintenance, chopping fire wood, hauling water, and of course, interacting with any visitors that stop by. In the evening, hosts check in with USFS dispatch once again before signing off for the evening.

What qualifications are you looking for as cabin/lookout hosts? Hosts of all different backgrounds volunteer in this program. At a minimum we look for folks who have spent significant amounts of time in the woods and would be comfortable at a remote site on their own. Additional skills such as carpentry, masonry, or general construction go a long way toward helping us find great hosting sites where a volunteer's unique skill set can be fully utilized.

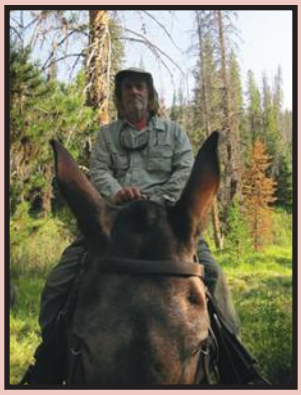
Continued on page 7.

Which cabin is the most remote? Moose Creek Ranger Station is the furthest from the nearest road at 26 miles into the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Area. Fish Lake and Shearer Guard Stations see far [fewer] visitors and often feel much more remote despite being closer to the wilderness boundary.

Which cabin sees the most human interaction? St. Mary Peak Lookout hosts interact with the most forest visitors. Hosts at the lookout might see nearly 100 people on a busy summer weekend.

So do the volunteers need to be fully self-sufficient once they're at their cabin? We currently work with volunteer hosts to plan horse-packing and resupply deliveries for the time they spend at a remote site. We offer a flat rate per-diem rate to volunteer hosts of $28 per day. Many of our volunteers choose to donate this money back to our organization in exchange for an annual membership which helps us continue to expand and improve our programs. Most remote hosting sites have water filtration systems, stoves, outhouses, and other basic amenities that volunteers might need.

For more information on the Cabin and Lookout Hosting Program send email to: info@selwaybitterroot.org.



FRED HEBERT

Camp Chef for the 2014 Indian Creek Project.

Many have said that the SBFC serves up the best meals in the Wilderness.

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A GOOD USED VEHICLE
for Backcountry and Highway Use
sferguson@selwaybitterroot.org

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Shopping for food
- Office projects
- Event Planning
- Help during events

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MOUNTAIN FILM ON TOUR

BOISE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

EGYPTIAN THEATER

Selway-Bitterroot Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1886
Boise, ID 83701

PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF WILDERNESS

From $25 to a legacy gift, all contributions make a tangible difference towards the work we do.

FIELD WORK

Each summer we organize, transport, educate, feed, and manage crews and citizen volunteers for trail maintenance, wilderness monitoring, weed mitigation, cabin stewardship, and lookout hosting.

DEVELOP FUTURE LEADERS

Our internship program is a training ground for college students who will pursue careers that have a positive and lasting impact on wilderness and land conservation.

WILDERNESS AND PUBLIC LAND EDUCATION

Each year, with the Bitterroot National Forest, we host a Wilderness Skills Training Program for elementary school students. These students learn age-appropriate wilderness skills, such as "Leave No Trace", and receive information that can translate to a lifelong appreciation of wilderness.

ANNUAL MEMBER LEVELS

Vanity Lakes - **$25**
Wylie's Peak - **$50**
Moose Creek - **$100**

Bighorn Crags - **$250**
Selway River - **$500**
Salmon River - **$1,000**

SBFC Benefactor – **Donations above $1000**

SBFC Legacy – **Financial bequests and personal property.**
Please Contact: **Sally Ferguson, Executive Director**
sferguson@selwaybitterroot.org

Send gift with this form to:
SBFC Foundation – PO BOX 1886 Boise, ID 83701

Monthly and one-time payment options are available on our website: selwaybitteroot.org/join

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