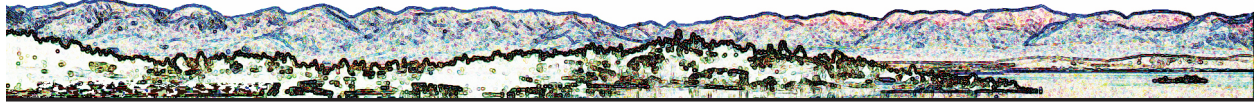


# Swan View's News

Summer-Fall 2018



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)  
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## *The Empire Strikes Back: Agencies in Lockstep!*

Once upon a time, wildlife management agencies would keep land management agencies in check to insure habitat is protected. Not so lately, as state and federal agencies march in lockstep to relax habitat protections for grizzly bears and remove their Endangered Species Act protections in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem - as has already been done in the Yellowstone Ecosystem!

Pictured on this page is but a portion of the documents the agencies have dumped on the public in the past 12 months. The key theme among them is to abandon prior protections for grizzly bears and make it easier to road, develop and log the forests that are the bears' habitat!

On page 2 we describe an opportunity for you to quickly object to the premature delisting of the NCDE grizzlies, a proposal expected later this year.

On page 3 we describe the half-dozen timber sales we've had to file Objections to this summer, as the Flathead rushes them out the door before signing its new Forest Plan in November or December.

On page 4 we note a glimmer of hope for getting motorized vehicles out of Krause

Basin in the new Forest Plan - and ask you to write a short message to help make it so!

On page 5 we announce that we finally got all 38 culverts removed from an abandoned logging road in the headwaters of Coal Creek, a critical bull trout spawning stream that's in trouble! It took years and the threat of a lawsuit, but we got it done!

On pages 6 we announce our **November 4 membership meeting** and include some unsolicited praise of our work from our members!

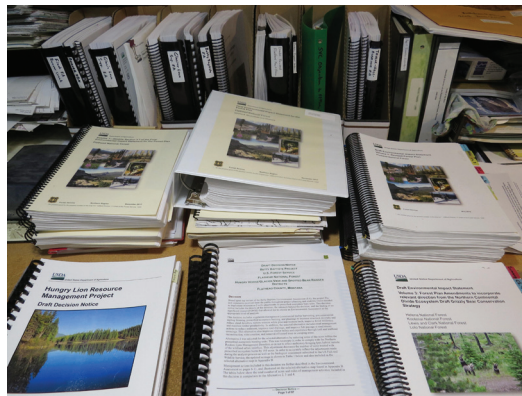
On page 7 we remind you we need to meet our Cinnabar Matching Grant soon! If you **support our work today with a donation,**

**it will be doubled by Cinnabar!**

We need your help now more than ever! We need to hire attorneys and experts to bring legal challenges against grizzly bear delisting in the NCDE and the dropping of key protections for grizzly bears and other wildlife in the revised Flathead Forest Plan!

**THANK YOU!**

Keith



## *Agencies Closing in on NCDE Griz Delisting: Here's How You Can Quickly Object to It!*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will propose removal of Endangered Species Act protections from Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem grizzly bears later this year. In an effort to make it appear it has "adequate regulatory mechanisms" in place for managing bears once delisted, MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is writing into State law how it will manage for a minimum bear population of 800.

This is 200 bears less than estimated to exist today and far fewer bears than will be necessary to insure they connect and interbreed with the isolated Yellowstone population! Research has shown bears cannot travel in a single season from one ecosystem to the other, meaning they must establish home ranges in between.

But neither the Yellowstone or NCDE Conservation Strategies require adequate habitat security or bear numbers in the intervening landscape. They instead are largely restricted to managing bears in separate Demographic Monitoring Areas. Contrary to law and common sense, FWS is designating each ecosystem as a "distinct population segment," not detailing how that affects the other ecosystems, and then attempting to delist them one ecosystem at a time.

MDFWP is following suit by focusing on just the NCDE DMA and ignoring the bears and habitat security needed to reconnect the ecosystems. Here's how you

can let MDFWP know by October 26 you don't want it putting an 800-bear stranglehold on Montana's grizzly bears: 1) email [FWPGRIZZLYBEARARM@mt.gov](mailto:FWPGRIZZLYBEARARM@mt.gov), 2) write Grizzly Bear ARM, MDFWP, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or 3) speak up at a public hearing in Great Falls on 9/18, Conrad on 9/19, Missoula on 9/26, or Kalispell on 9/27. For details visit: [http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/rules/pn\\_0265.html](http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/rules/pn_0265.html)

Here are some suggested talking points:

1. A 90% probability of maintaining 800 bears in the NCDE core is an inadequate target. How many bears and how much secure habitat is needed for a single, connected population in the Yellowstone, NCDE, Cabinet-Yaak, Selkirks, and Selway-Bit-



terroot ecosystems?

2. The "lower 48" grizzly bears were listed under the ESA as "threatened" with extinction. Why are MDFWP and FWS trying to "divide and conquer" rather than "connect and recover" these ecosystems?

3. Grizzly bears are currently confined to less than 2% of their former range and numbers. MDFWP should be ashamed to try and write into Montana law that this constitutes grizzly bear "recovery."

4. Grizzly bear hunting would kill bears needed for population expansion and ecosystem connectivity. Make grizzly bear hunting illegal in Montana no matter what!



## *Flathead NF Rushes Timber Sales Out the Door As it Finalizes its Revised Forest Plan!*

We've had to file Objections to six timber sale projects this summer! Because they were planned under the current Forest Plan, the Flathead must finalize them before it signs its revised Forest Plan this fall.

Common among the timber sales is the Flathead's failure to fully implement Amendment 19's requirements for grizzly bear security by closing and decommissioning enough roads. The revised Forest Plan will do away with A-19 entirely and these timber sales reflect the Forest's reduced emphasis on protecting bears because it says they were recovered in the NCDE in 2011.

Fish and Wildlife Service is complicit in allowing the Flathead to shirk its Forest Plan requirements on these timber sales. It has also written an opinion stating the Flathead can continue to do so even if the NCDE grizzly bear remains listed under the Endangered Species Act. So we have to battle on two fronts to protect grizzly bear habitat: we need to challenge the bears' removal from the ESA list and we need to challenge the revised Flathead Forest Plan that drops grizzly bear protections regardless of ESA status!

A number of this summer's timber sales also purport to reduce hazardous fuels in order to reduce the severity of wildfires near communities. In its Hungry Lion proj-

ect, however, the Flathead has planned and offered timber sales furthest from Coram and Martin City first - which belies the purported need for the logging!

The Flathead's Weed Lake Landscape Restoration Project utilized environmental review shortcuts included in the 2014 Farm Bill's amendments to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. These are all buzzwords for more logging, less public oversight and less

ecosystem restoration. The Weed Lake project will log most of the lower slopes of Sixmile Mountain near Swan Lake and create openings well over the 40 acre limit! The Flathead admits logging has a high risk of spreading noxious weeds, which is hardly landscape restoration!



Helena, MT's Chessman Reservoir water supply was clearcut under Farm Bill "Good Neighbor Authority!" Polly Pfister photo

We are in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals with our lawsuit over the Beaver Creek timber sale, hoping to secure a ruling that the Flathead must indeed implement A-19 grizzly bear road decommissioning in these "current Plan" timber sales. And we'll soon be challenging the revised Plan!

**CORRECTION:** In our Winter-Spring 2018 newsletter we incorrectly stated that none of the Whitefish Range Partners objected to the Flathead's intent to do away with its A-19 grizzly bear management program. We overlooked North Fork Preservation Association's objection in this regard.

## *Your Last Chance to Help Get Motorized Vehicles Out of Krause Basin in the Revised Forest Plan!*

Please take 5 minutes today to urge the Flathead Forest Supervisor to select the Forest Plan option that removes motor vehicles from Krause Basin!

Send an email to [cweber@fs.fed.us](mailto:cweber@fs.fed.us), urging him to incorporate the following option into his final Decision, as provided by the Regional Forester in her Response to Forest Plan Objections:

"Another option to resolve objectors' concerns over unauthorized motor vehicle use and address their desire for the area to be non-motorized would be to remove the desired condition for existing trails to provide summer wheeled motorized trail experience and motorized winter recreation opportunities close to local communities. A suitability plan component could be added indicating the area is not suitable for motor vehicle use."

You don't need to have filed an Objection to send this email to Supervisor Chip Weber. Every message helps!

Please send a copy of your email to Swan Lake District Ranger Chris Dowling, [cdowling@fs.fed.us](mailto:cdowling@fs.fed.us), who walked parts of Krause Basin with us August 10.

If you'd rather write a letter, address it to Flathead Forest Supervisor, 650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell, MT 59901.

[Click here](#) to read our short letter to the Forest Supervisor and District Ranger in this regard.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Krause Basin issue.

[Click here](#) for the 121-page Response to Objections. The Krause Basin discussion is on page 19.

**This is our last chance to get motors removed from Krause Basin in the revised Forest Plan!**

**THANK YOU for taking 5 minutes to help make it happen!**



Illegal ORV mud-bogging in Krause Basin, May 2014!



## *Culverts Finally Removed from Abandoned Raghorn Road in the Headwaters of Coal Creek!*

It took the threat of a lawsuit, but the Flathead National Forest has finally removed all the culverts from the Raghorn Road in the headwaters of Coal Creek - a critical bull trout spawning stream that is in trouble due to sediment from logging and roads. The Flathead decided to remove the culverts from "this long abandoned road" in 2010 but in 2012 removed only three, leaving 38 culverts stranded behind the culvert removal shown below!

It is essential to remove culverts that don't get inspected and cleaned regularly, because they eventually plug up. When they do, the road gets washed down the stream where it can smother bull trout and other fish eggs. Culvert removals prevent this damage by pulling the road fill back and returning the stream to its native streambed, as pictured below.

We could see using Google Earth that culverts had been left in Raghorn Road, twice hiked in to photograph and geo-tag the culverts, and filed a [Notice of Intent to File Suit](#) on behalf of bull trout along with Friends of the Wild Swan and WildEarth Guardians in 2016. Caught red-handed, the Flathead agreed to remove the culverts.

The culverts were removed the first week of August, 2018, making bull trout habitat more secure. What remains to adequately secure grizzly bear habitat under the current Forest Plan, however, is to revegetate the Raghorn Road so it no longer serves as a road or trail channeling human impacts into bear habitat.

The Flathead is trying to abandon these essential culvert removal and road decommissioning requirements in its revised Forest Plan. We don't intend to let it!



## *Unsolicited Praise For Our Work!*

"While we may stand apart political-ly in other areas, we stand together in the Swan Range. Keep giving them hell and hold the line for us all."

*Michael T.*

"Thank you for all you do to make this planet a better place."

*Margaret D.*

"Thank you for fighting to protect this part of wild Montana."

*Patricia H.*

"Thank you so much for being here and for doing your utmost to preserve the beauty, wildlife and peace of this magical place."

*Kathy K.*

"Great job on MTPR this evening! You were right on the money. Thanks for defending our public lands!"

*Jessica S.*

"I am so glad you were interviewed, you provided excellent comments, and made the issues so clear."

*Patty V.*

"Great job, both in message and delivery."

*Larry C.*

"Your writing is clear as a bell. And what you detail here [regarding collaboration] is insidious."

*Christopher K.*

"I checked out the Swan View Coalition website, and I must say that your group appears to do some very valuable, impressive, and important work. We need more of that kind of advocacy."

*John E.*

"These days it helps to remember that old saying "Nature bats last." Here's a donation toward the heftiness of Nature's bat."

*Kraig K.*

## *Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck November 4!*

**Join us for our Membership Meeting Sunday, November 4, at 4pm! We 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!

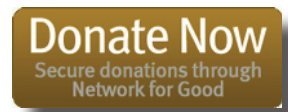
**You can also help us meet our Cinnabar Matching Grant by renewing your membership dues (see next page)!**

## Your Donations Again Doubled by Cinnabar Foundation!

Cinnabar Foundation has again issued us a Challenge/Matching Grant for \$4,000 - **so be among the first to donate 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 by giving Gift Memberships at \$25 each**, either on-line or using the form below! **It's easy to join with and help others support 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 at right)!



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 it 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.  
3165 Foothill Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

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