



<http://montana.sierraclub.org/>

Action Alert
What you can do to help protect Weatherman Draw
(See Page 12)

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Election Notice
Sierra Club MT Chapter Executive Committee

We are now ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS for vacancies on the Montana Chapter Executive Committee.

Please call Caitlin Fox (406) 543-8659 by March 15, 2002 to make recommendations to the Nominating Committee for their consideration
OR
Submit a petition signed by at least 15 Chapter members supporting the nomination to: Nominating Committee, 626 N. 4th Street, Missoula, MT 59802
Nomination petitions must be received by March 25, 2002.
Final ballots will be mailed to members April 1, 2002.

The Gathering of the Tribes to Save the Valley of the Chiefs

By Howard Boggess, Crow Historian

Editors Note: The Sierra Club has been working to protect the Valley of the Chiefs from oil drilling.

As we walk up the canyon to the Valley of the Chiefs, I think about the hundreds of people who came to use this sacred valley for more than a thousand years and walked the path that I am walking. The Valley is so quiet that you can hear the birds chirp from a long distance and eagles soar from high above. You can hear the whisper on the winds of ancient ones saying their



Weatherman Draw

prayers and singing songs as they prepared to paint their stories on the Ancient rocks that tower so tall. The Indian religion has never been

written and yet has been practiced for hundreds of years and has been passed down through the generations by oral stories. In the Indian belief, one has to go to the sky to be with their maker, they pray to their father the sky, their mother the earth, their grandfather the sun and to their grandmother the moon. The Indian people are family oriented and their religion is based on family and the ones who brought them to this earth and cared for them.

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Hold Your Breath! Trident Cement Kiln Wants to burn Tires

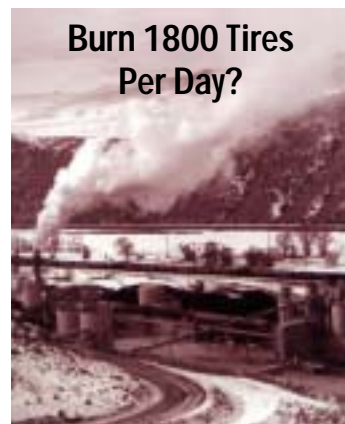
By Kris Thomas

Editors Note: The Headwaters Group of the Sierra Club is opposing Holcim's plans to burn tires.

The Coke Appeal Has Been Settled with Good News for Montanans! Last winter, Holcim applied to change its fuel composition to a very high percentage (50%) of petroleum coke, a waste product of the petroleum refineries and a notoriously dirty fuel. Holcim's proposal could have increased the emission levels of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and

particulate matter. Unfortunately, the State of Montana granted Holcim a permit without requiring the facility to perform previously agreed-to testing. Montanans Against Toxic Burning, the Montana Environmental Information Center, and the Headwaters Chapter of the Sierra Club appealed this permit on the common-sense notion that people deserve to know what is coming out of Holcim's smokestack. Shortly before

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Burn 1800 Tires Per Day?
Cement Kiln in Trident, MT

The Wild Trails Campaign: Documenting the Damage

By Phil Knight

In May, the Sierra Club Grizzly Bear Ecosystems Project, in conjunction with Native Forest Network's Last Refuge Campaign, launched the Wild Trails Campaign to document the damage caused by motorized recreation on the Gallatin National Forest. Our field work has taken us and volunteers all over the Gallatin National Forest; into the Bridger Range, the Gallatin

Range, the Absaroka Range, the Madison Range, the Crazy Mountains and the Bear-tooths. Our national forests are being loved and neglected to death. Almost everywhere we went we found trash strewn about, (most of which we packed out), random shooting ranges with shotgun and bullet cases and shot-up targets every-

where, rutted meadows from people driving off-road, and trampled, overused camps. Worst of all, we found evidence of motor vehicle trespass in several locations, including the Absaroka-Bear-tooth Wilderness and the Cabin Creek Wildlife Management Area. Perhaps most frustrating is that one never sees Forest Service people out there

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Valley of the Chiefs (Continued from Page 1)

One day they will become the people that they pray to, a Father, Mother, Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle, Brother or Sister. We have seen something that has not happened for hundreds of years, a gathering of non-Indians, Indians and spiritual and tribal leaders from many different tribes of Indians. We started off as quiet strangers who had never laid eyes on one another before. The Comanche, the Crow, Blackfeet, and the non-Indian all traveled together to the Valley of the Chiefs the traditional name for Weatherman Draw, (AKA) the Valley of the Shields. As I walk I wonder how long it has been since a Blackfeet, a Crow and a Comanche had walked this valley together and prayed together and had food.

For one to enter the valley they must cleanse their mind and body and have no bad thoughts or hate, fear or jealousy in their hearts. You enter the valley after you cleanse yourself in the traditional way with prayer or smoke from the sweet grass, sage, and tobacco. After cleansing or prayer, you can begin a safe journey into the Valley of Peace for there are no enemies here.

As we walked up the narrow canyon to the valley we discussed how any work that would be done by an oil company would destroy the canyon, as it is only wide enough for four people to walk abreast. The earth is so fragile that we left marks that would take a long time to heal from our footsteps. The first site we visited was of the great black bear, ancient looking with large claws and very powerful. There are shields and other spiritual artwork at this site that has been used as campsite in recent years as there are the remains of campfire. A few feet away is an old painting of a single

hand of a bear and recent work done in charcoal. At a nearby site two separate groups of round dots form a panel that displays a count that appears to have been made by two different groups, as the paint is of two different



Three rare polychromatic figures with shields in the Valley of the Chiefs

shades of red and yellow oaker. There are also sites of the tobacco society as they are wearing the flat hats on their heads with a cross and others with marks on the hats. These types of hats are in early 1900 hundred period photos and worn by Crow Indian women in tobacco society photos.

In the history of the Indian there were no serious wars among the Indians tribes until the traders and trappers came in the mid-1700s. When Indians wars were fought they counted coo on one another, as it was far braver to touch your enemy and take his weapon and leave him alive then it was to take his life. Indian people practiced their religion in the Valley of the Chiefs. This valley is so sacred that your

worst enemy was a friend when you were in the valley; you ate together and prayed together. There was only peace in this sacred valley. They painted countless pieces of rock art to show what their life was about in this small

being done, a fire pit was discovered and three ablaters stones were found in the fire pit, all with the paint of the shields on them. After the fire pit was carbon dated it was determined that the shields were 900 to 1000 years old.

As we walk to the art sites we discuss what we felt there, as it is an overpowering feeling in this holy place. We compare this valley with other places that are non-Indian sacred sites, Mount Rushmore, Gettysburg Cemetery, St Patrick Cathedral, The walls of Jerusalem. These are sites that mean so much to the Indian and are scattered over a large area. All of these same sites are in the valley of the Chiefs, our burial sites, our vision quest sites, our prayer sites, and the campsites that the families used so long ago. Much of the vegetation like the yellow sage and ghost plant there was used in the ceremonies and as medicines for the sick.

Spiritual art was done by the first Americans telling the stories of their lives, religion, and power of their medicine bundle. Each drawing was done by an individual and tells about what this person used for his spirit being. Indians use different animals, birds and other icons of their choice for their powers and protection.

After you enter the Valley you can go to your prayer site or vision quest site. For a vision quest site you go high enough on the ridges for you to see the four cardinal directions, North, South, East and west. You will stay at a vision quest the length of time it takes for the quest to work for you. Normally, it is three days and nights to make your vision quest work for you to guide you in your future. After you return from your vision quest you go before the elders and

(Continued on page 3)

This valley is so sacred that your worst enemy was a friend when you were in the valley; you ate together and prayed together.

cumber-
some for
the
swiftness
of a
horse.

Through modern technology, one of the sites was carbon dated. There are three shields side by side in a hidden part of the Valley of the Chiefs. One of the shields had dirt in the front of it, which covered part of the shield. An excavation of the shield was done to see if the painting had survived under the earth. As this work was

Valley of the Chiefs (Continued from Page 2) By Howard Boggess, Crow Historian

tell them everything you have seen or heard, what came around and the dreams you had while resting. The elders would then tell you how your vision quest would guide you in your future life, what you would use for the powers in your medicine bundle, or the drawing you would use on your medicine shield. This is the drawing that you would paint on the sandstone walls in the valley to leave power in the valley, where you received the powers that will protect and guide you through life. When people stand before the paintings they will receive a blessing from the one that painted this story for people to see for many generations in the future.

At about the age of eleven years of age an American Indian does his first Vision Quest. The reason it is done at this age is that one has to do his vision quest before the time of puberty, as after the time of puberty a boy becomes known as a man. Girls also do vision quests before they become women. Vision quests last for three days and nights. During this time they are not allowed to eat, drink or to have other comforts such as clothing or blankets or have any connection with other people during that time. One pays attention to what they see or hear when doing a vision quest or what they may dream about while they sleep. After they leave the vision quest site they set with their elders and tell them of everything that came around them or they heard, seen or dreamed about. The elders then would tell of the things that would happen in their lives, like if they would become great warriors and leaders of their people or other significant things in their lives.

For a prayer site you go where you can see the rising sun in

the morning and the setting of the sun in the evening. As you need to set there for a life of one day, you start your prayer with the beginning of daylight and your prayer will last through the day and end with the sunset. Your prayers are said four times in each of the four directions. Your prayer songs are sung in the same way. You have to complete a series of prayers and songs before a prayer is ended. For you to set by one's self for the day is a way to mend a way of life or to make a decision. The old way is for you to be by yourself and think all your problems out for yourself and make all

When I am in the Valley of the Chiefs, I feel the peace and calmness of this sacred place.



Two pictographs of shields at Weatherman Draw

View photos in color online at <http://montana.sierraclub.org/weatherman.html>
Photos courtesy of Scott Prinzing

decisions yourself. For guidance you go to your uncles or aunts who give you your guidance, but you have to make the final decision yourself.

The valley is very well protected from the harsh weather we have here in the winter. This is a small valley of about 4000 acres. If this were

the last place on earth that may or may not have a pool of oil under it the American Indian would probably consent for the good of mankind to drill for this oil. It is not the last pool of oil on earth and we do not consent to having a steel spear being driven through the heart of our mother the earth to look for oil that may or may not be there. To build the road, the bulldozers would destroy the earth and the vegetation and this would be lost forever, as this earth is so fragile any little disturbance takes years for any recovery. The old road into this valley is unusable now, as it has eroded away.

The area is closed to motorized vehicles and firearms, but it is not enforced by the BLM. The valley has a natural protection now that will be destroyed if a new road is allowed to be gouged and ripped into this sacred valley.

At our hearing at the BLM office in Billings, MT on May 7th, testimony was heard by deaf ears, even though good

honest testimony to the importance of the valley was given by the people that traveled many miles to be there. Testimony was made by Indian and non-Indian that was very moving to all whom were there. People were not aware of the importance of this valley to the American Indian. We believe the BLM has made a big mistake in

allowing an oil lease for a well to be drilled for in this small pristine valley.

We have a President and Vice President of our country whose campaigns for office were financed by oil companies to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Now they have to pay off their debt and will push to allow for cultural religious sites and pristine areas to be destroyed for the sake of an energy crisis that was not there until they entered office. The Bush administration's energy plan would destroy any cultural or religious site, just for a gallon of oil. The oil well to be drilled is only exploratory; they don't even know for sure if there is oil down there. If there is, it is only a small pool of ten million barrels of oil, which would take twenty to thirty years to pump and would only supply enough oil for the United States for less than one half of a day.

As I've walked through the valley, I have seen the paintings on the sand rock cliffs of the shield bearing warrior with the wolves, two-headed water animal, the bear, two-meter man, horses and men, tobacco society drawings, and antelope in colors of yellow, gold, red, green, and black. I have hiked the valley ten times this summer with religious leaders from the Crow, Blackfeet, Comanche, Kiowa, Sioux, Arapahoe, Shoshone, and Cheyenne. Each time is a new experience. I believe this is because before you enter the valley you said your prayers and dismissed all bad thoughts for everyone and think of what may have been going through the minds of the ones who created the spiritual art. When I am in the Valley of the Chiefs, I feel the peace and calmness of this sacred place.

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ATV (Continued from Page 1)

checking things out, talking to users, cleaning up messes and packing out trash. It's a free for all. The only place the Forest Service seems to be making significant efforts to limit access and shut down user created trails is in Hyalite Canyon, where their efforts are to be commended.

Several recent agreements by the federal government give us considerable leverage in limiting motorized travel. The Forest Service has agreed to manage off-trail travel in occupied grizzly bear habitat. In addition, wheeled motorized use is now restricted to existing roads and trails. Most national forests in Montana are now closed to off trail travel. Also, any trail with constrictions under 48" is supposed to be closed to 4 wheelers. Lastly, the Forest

Service has been directed by a federal judge to restore the wild character of 6 Montana Wilderness Study Areas. The Code of Federal Regulations also has very strong language regarding use of and monitoring of ATVs - were it only enforced.

Field Training Days

We organized and conducted field trips and training days for volunteers, making trips to Hyalite Canyon, Truman Gulch, and Bracket Creek. Participants in the training included folks from National Outdoor Leadership School and the Bozeman City Commission.

We've also met with the Forest Service and presented some of our concerns and findings, urging quick action to curb ongoing motorized abuse in key areas. These meetings are beginning to bear fruit.

Data Gathering and Monitoring Techniques

Throughout the spring and summer we've been developing and refining techniques for field monitoring, and now have a standardized set of forms and codes for recording photographs, GPS points, trail and road numbers, types and severity of damage, and habitat types. All this information is being entered in a comprehensive



ATV Damage on the Pioneer Lakes trail, Gallatin National Forest
(Courtesy Phil Knight)



ATV damage on Windy Pass Trail, a trail within a Wilderness Study Area. This trail was widened to accommodate ATVs.
Gallatin N.F., MT
(Courtesy David Ellenberger)

database.

Sacrifice Zones

In summary, we found backcountry ATV and motorcycle use and damage heaviest in a few areas: Rock Creek, Ramshorn Lake, Buffalo Horn Creek and Windy Pass in the Gallatin Range, upper Buck Ridge in the Madison Range, and the west side of the Bridger Range. Perhaps worst of all is the area around Cooke City, where our survey staff were overwhelmed by the extent of the damage they found in this spectacular area of high peaks, alpine lakes and tundra. Reports of damage and trespass in other areas continue to arrive.

All is not Lost

The many strategies currently aimed at battling destructive motorized recreation are coming together on the Gallatin. These strategies include field surveys and documentation, activation and training of volunteers, collection of facts and evidence, refinement of field monitoring techniques, litigation over impacts on grizzly bears and Wilderness Study Areas, coordination among multiple environmental groups, outreach to the press and the public, and pressure on the

Forest Service to deal with this growing menace. This multi-pronged approach has all the hallmarks of a successful environmental campaign, and we are confident we will curtail destructive, high-impact motorized recreation on this rugged yet fragile landscape. We hope to be able to export this campaign to assist people in other areas besieged by oversized motorized toys.

Damage Photos Available Online

Please visit <http://grizzly.sierraclub.org> (click on Wild Trails Link) to see photos of some of the worst examples of public lands abuse we found this summer. You can also download copies of our documentation forms from there.

Join us next season as we expand our efforts to stop the abuse of our fragile public lands by motorized wreckreation. Contact me at pknight@wildrockies.org to get involved.

With continued vigilance and dedication to wild backcountry and secure wildlife habitat,

Phil Knight
Native Forest Network

200 Years after Lewis and Clark....

Protecting and Restoring the Lands and Water Traveled by the Corps of Discovery.

The Sierra Club Lewis and Clark Campaign

The Lewis and Clark expedition fires America's imagination today just as it did 200 years ago. The history and stories of the Corps of Discovery's journey are part of our heritage, for better or worse, and they reflect America in its purest, most natural and wild state. Much has changed since Lewis and Clark – yet much endures. Travelers to North Dakota's Little Missouri Badlands, Lemhi Pass through the Rocky Mountains, or Idaho's Lolo Trail can still find an America unchanged since the days of Lewis and Clark.

But the wildlands and wildlife that have survived the last 200 years are in jeopardy and under assault. The Columbia



River is no longer, in Meriwether Lewis' words "crowded with salmon." Damming has reduced the Missouri at Omaha to one-third of its 1803 width. Ninety percent of Washington's old-growth forests are gone. Only 1 percent of our native tallgrass prairies remain. And where we once had 100,000 grizzly

bears, there are now fewer than 1,000 left. Endangered salmon, bear and bison – plentiful in Lewis and Clark's time – struggle to survive on degraded habitat. Logging, oil and gas drilling, and off-road vehicles are tearing up what's left of our wild country.

To reduce threats to our environment, to recognize what's been lost since the time of Lewis and Clark and to conserve and restore what's left of wild America, Sierra Club is leading a five-year campaign to link conservation and the commemoration of the 200-year anniversary of the Lewis and Clark exploration.

Sierra Club will use the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark to help America rediscover these incredible lands and urge Americans to advocate the protection and restoration of our remaining wild places. Our goal is to permanently protect the 56 million acres of remaining wildlands in the country Lewis and Clark explored, preserve and restore key wildlife habitat

and protect threatened and endangered species like bison, wolves, grizzly bears and salmon. The solutions we advocate include: wilderness designation, hands-on

conservation, lands acquisition, smart growth and ending commercial logging on our National Forests and public lands.

The "Lewis and Clark Campaign" has grown and achieved a great deal over the last year. In the first phase of our project, we developed



colorful, informative materials to highlight 33 places in 8 states of "Lewis and Clark country" that need protection. The stories of these special places are described in our profile book, "Wild America: Protecting the Lands of Lewis and Clark." An interactive web site <http://www.sierraclub.org/lewisandclark/>, allows a visitor to view the book, browse more information and learn how to get involved.

Already, two campaign sites have been protected. In May 2000, President Clinton designated Hanford Reach, the last-free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River, in southern Washington, as a National Monument. And, Steens Mountain in Alvord Desert, Oregon is a Cooperative Management and Protection Area.

David Ellenberger is the campaign's media and outreach coordinator, helping develop the campaign's materials, website and visibility.

Conservation staff and Sierra Club volunteers from Nebraska to Washington are creating and expanding conservation campaigns, collaborating with a variety of interest groups, and raising the public profile of what's at stake in the lands Lewis and Clark traveled. Through presentations, public education and outreach materials, historical events, community fairs, scientific forums, outings, reports and media work, we are engaging the public's interest, energizing them to call for wildland protection, and linking conservation to the commemoration of the Lewis and

Clark bicentennial.

Please join us in ensuring the protection of wild America. To find

Learn more about the Lewis and Clark Campaign online on the web

<http://www.sierraclub.org/lewisandclark/>

Edwina Allen, a long-time activist in Idaho, is the campaign's volunteer Chair. Recently, two full-time positions were created to help lead the campaign. Mary Kiesau is the campaign coordinator, overseeing all components of the campaign in the 8-state project region.

out how you can help or get involved in your area, contact Mary Kiesau at 206-378-0114, ext. 311 or mary.kiesau@sierraclub.org, or visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/lewisandclark/>.

Burning Tires (Continued from Page 1)

Thanksgiving, this appeal was settled before the hearing date with some good news for all Montanans. Through negotiation, a reasonable, responsible decision was reached:

- Holcim will install continuous emissions monitoring equipment within nine months to monitor sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions.
- Emissions monitoring reports will be submitted quarterly to the Department of Environmental Quality for the first year and semi-annually thereafter, and emissions information is to be made available to the public.
- Within 90 days of increasing its use of coke fuel, Holcim must conduct a source test to determine the chemical composition of its stack emissions.

Emissions monitoring will allow the public to know whether Holcim is in compliance with the limits established by the DEQ. It is not a perfect settlement. There are still serious concerns about emissions of metals and polyaromatic hydrocarbons associated with burning high amounts of petroleum coke. However, monitoring of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides is a good start toward protecting the clean air and agricultural economy of the Gallatin Valley.

A Legacy of Pursuing Dangerous Fuels

As many residents in the Gallatin Valley remember, Holcim, a multinational corporation based in Switzerland, applied for a permit ten years ago to burn 8.2 million gallons of hazardous waste per year in its Trident cement kiln. Holcim brought in its hired "expert," Kathryn Kelly, to testify that "in terms of potential impact to the public health or environment, there is no difference in the stack,



**What would Lewis and Clark think?
The cement kiln is on the banks of the Missouri River,
near the Headwaters State Park**

the cement kiln dust, or the concrete product as a result of using hazardous fuel" (*Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, 7/31/91). After years of vigorous opposition from citizens groups, the application was withdrawn in 1994.

Time has proven that Holcim's "expert" was wrong and that citizens' health concerns were well founded. In 2001, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency ranked hazardous-waste-burning cement kilns as the second highest source of dioxin in the country. The number one source of dioxin in the United States is municipal (solid) waste incinerators.

Solid Waste Incineration

In July 2000, Holcim submitted an application for a permit to incinerate solid wastes. Holcim has asked that the permit address "a wide variety of potential material": "It is unknown at this time what waste streams will be brought into the Holcim-Trident Plant. We are anticipating that we will receive slag-like materials, catalysts from the metal industry, wood wastes, and other traditional industry wastes."

In October 2001, Holcim

submitted an application for an air quality permit to burn tires in its kiln. The company hopes to reduce its fuel costs by supplementing its traditional fuel with scrap tires at a rate of 75 tires per hour, 1,800 tires per day, or 657,000 tires per year.

What's the problem with burning tires?

Tires are composed of styrene and butadiene, which are both being classified as human carcinogens; extender oils, which contain carcinogenic benzene derivatives; up to seventeen different metals, many of which are toxic; and carbon black, a fine particulate matter produced by the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. Tires are not considered a hazardous substance—until they are burned. When tires are burned,

- their hazardous constituents are released, and new, more toxic compounds, such as dioxins, furans, PCBs, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons, are created.
- metals are not destroyed but are concentrated in the cement product and in the kiln waste product. They are also distributed throughout the environ-

ment through the stack emissions.

Upsetting

Cement kilns are prone to malfunctions that trip pollution-control equipment and result in large amounts of uncontrolled emissions. During these incidents, called "upsets," unburned and partially burned chemicals are released directly into the environment. The Holcim Trident plant reported more than 600 upsets during the year 2000. With tires added to the fuel mix, upset emissions are expected to increase, posing a greater threat to public health.

Tire Permitting Process Proceeds—Your Comments Are Needed!

The Department of Environmental Quality is currently conducting a completeness review of Holcim's application to burn tires. They are welcoming written questions and comments. Please send a letter to David Klemp, Air and Waste Management Bureau, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana, 59620-0901, or send a FAX to 406-444-1499, or e-mail to dklemp@state.mt.us.

There are several points you may want to consider addressing:

- Because of the potential health impacts of incinerating tires, an Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared.
- Test burn data from other cement plants are presented in the application. Test burns represent carefully controlled conditions, not normal operating conditions. The DEQ should consider the high rate of upset emissions at the Trident plant and attempt to quantify those emissions.

(Continued on page 7)

Burning Tires (Continued from Page 6)

- A full spectrum of test burn results should be included in the permit application, not just data showing favorable results. In addition, there should be sufficient data points to make a valid risk assessment.
- The permit application should consider the worst-case scenario, not an averaging of potential emissions.
- The calculation of potential toxic emissions (dioxins, metals) from tire

burning should be based on actual measurements of pollutants, not estimations.

- Holcim must specify the wastes it is proposing to burn in its kiln.

When the permit is found to be complete, the Department of Environmental Quality will make its determination on whether the permit should be issued (Preliminary Determination). If it decides to issue the permit to Holcim, a draft permit will be presented to the public for comment. We will

let you know when the comment period begins. Meanwhile, there are other ways that you can help safeguard the health of the Gallatin Valley:

- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper and send us a copy.
- Contact your city and county commissioners and let them know your concerns.
- Help educate your friends and neighbors. Let them know about our Web site at <http://www.nocticburning.org>.

- Contact the Gallatin County Board of Health and let them know your concerns.
- Volunteer! We are opposing one of the biggest cement companies in the world and can use all the help we can get. For more information, call Katie at (406) 582-8365 ext 3002.

This article was reprinted courtesy of Kris Thomas and Montanans Against Toxic Burning .

Snowmobiles in Yellowstone – De’ja vu? By Drusha Mayhue

The long awaited draft Supplemental EIS (SEIS) on the fate of snowmobiling in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks has been released. There is a 100-day public comment period that ends May 29, 2002. A final decision on Yellowstone's future is due in November 2002.

“What,” you say. “Seems like we’ve been through this before and those pesky snowmobiles in the park will soon be history.” Well, we did, but...

The snowmobile manufacturers and the state of Wyoming sued the Park Service challenging the decision to ban snowmobiles in the Park. The International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) claimed to have new information about snowmobiles that was not included in the earlier decision by the National Park Service. The Bush Administration, rather than defending the National

Park Service’s decision, caved in to the threat of lawsuit and reopened the decision-making process, thus creating a supplemental EIS on the use of snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

After receiving scoping comments this past summer in response to the settlement agreement, the National Park

Service found that “Snowmobile manufacturers have failed to provide any useful information about new technologies that they claim should alter a decision to end snowmobiling in Yellowstone National Park.” John Sacklin, chief of park planning in Yellowstone, says new information has been scant at best.

Even Mike Finley, former superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, said in June 2001 that not only are traditional two-stroke snowmobiles too loud and dirty to be used in the park, the recently developed four-stroke machines that run more quietly and cleanly still aren't good enough. "Cleaner is not clean. Quieter is not quiet," he said. Even the new snowmobiles "would not adequately protect Yellowstone National Park."

Pull out your pen and paper and write another letter in support of phasing out snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Among your comments be sure to include:

- The snowmobile industry has produced no new

evidence that would change the basis on which the Park Service's original decision was made: that continued snowmobile use in the parks will result in more noise, dirtier air, and more stress to wildlife.

- The alternative backed by the snowmobile industry would put three times more carbon monoxide and seven times more hydrocarbons into the air of the parks than snow-coach access would produce.

Your comments must be in writing and must include the name and return address of the writer. To make it as easy as possible, there is an online comment form with sample comments at <http://www.saveyellowstone.org> or you can mail your comments directly to:

Winter Use Draft SEIS
Comments
Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks
PO Box 352
Moose, Wyoming 83012

Comments must be received May 29, 2002.



Yellowstone rangers recently equipped with gas masks have suffered headaches, sore throats, and nausea from breathing snowmobile exhaust.

Photo by Tom Murphy

Headwaters Group Update—Bozeman

By Jeff van den Noort

Campaigns

We have been working hard to prevent Holcim from burning tires at their Trident cement kiln. (See article on page 1)

Other major campaigns in our area include the Wild Trails Campaign (See page 1) and the Grizzly Bear Project (See articles on pages 10-11.)

Outings

The Headwaters Group is in the process of organizing an outings program. If you are interested in joining us on an outing, contact Jeff at jeff@vduc.com (406) 582-1871.

Election

We will be having an election soon for our executive committee members. If you are interested in running for office, or if you would like to nominate someone else, contact Katie at 582-8365 or email katie.craig@sierraclub.org.

Meeting Schedule

All members are welcome to attend our meetings. We will be meeting on March 21st at 7:00 PM at the club's offices (Emerson Cultural Center, Bozeman)

Sierra Student Coalition

The Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) provides an excellent opportunity for students to get involved. We are trying to establish an environmental student group on campus. For more information, visit the SSC website at www.ssc.org. If you are a student at the high school or college level, and you are interested in starting a Sierra Student Coalition group at your school, contact Katie at 582-8365 ext 3002 or email katie.craig@sierraclub.org.

Staff Offices

Feel free to contact us or just stop by.

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Mission / Bitterroot Group Update—Missoula

By Caitlin Fox

Bitterroot Salvage Logging Plan

Greetings from Western Montana! The Bitterroot-Mission Group has had its fingers in a number of pies since last spring, most notably in opposing the massive salvage logging plan in the Bitterroot National Forest. This summer, we helped sponsor a panel discussion, organized by the Ecology Center, on the subject. In July, the executive committee attended the post-fire Environmental Impact Statement meeting in Hamilton in lieu of our regularly scheduled program. The Bitterroot salvage logging debate recently came to a head when environmental groups and the Forest Service were court-ordered to participate in a mediation process. This resulted in the Forest Service removing a total of 27,000 acres slated for logging from the project, agreeing not to log about 15,000 acres of uninventoried roadless areas out of 17,000 acres originally proposed, and replanting about 33,000 acres. Road closure and decommissioning and non-

logging restoration will occur as proposed. In addition, thousands of acres of bull trout and west slope cutthroat trout habitat will be protected in Skalkaho, Sleeping Child, Tolan, Rye and Blue Joint Creeks; also, watershed restoration work will increase in two important native fish strongholds, Skalkaho and Sleeping Child Creeks. In turn, the environmental groups agreed to drop the lawsuits, and not contest about 14,000 acres of logging. **(See settlement fact sheet on page 11.)**

Energy and Trade

The BMG has been busy networking as well--several members of the executive board have been keeping us updated on the efforts of campaigns ranging from energy deregulation to protesting the upcoming G8 meeting in Calgary this summer. Last spring, Jim Curtis brought us regular reports on the activities of the energy deregulation meetings of The Citizens Energy Policy Council. Ron Mueller attended the nascent plans for protesting the Calgary G8 meeting

scheduled for June. Plans include a two or three day street fair in Missoula, an education conference, and a high-profile bike caravan from Missoula to Calgary.

Milltown Dam

The executive committee meeting for December included a presentation by the Clark Fork Coalition on the removal of the Milltown Dam. The CFC feels the director of the Environmental Protection Agency is leaning toward removal, but the campaign would benefit from pressure from a national organization such as the Sierra Club.

Lecture Series

In keeping with the theme of diverse issues, the Bitterroot-Mission Group organized a series of monthly speakers last spring and summer. Jennifer Ferenstein introduced the national Sierra Club Lewis and Clark campaign. Other topics included a slide show on the Red Rocks Wilderness and a presentation of transboundary conservation issues in the Flathead valley.

New BMG Email Alerts

One last note--the Bitterroot-Mission Group action-alert listserv will be up and running as you read this. We're trying new ways of informing members about how they can get involved, so if you'd like to sign on, follow the instructions on the next page.

Sierra Club Opens Missoula Office

The Montana Chapter of Sierra Club is very pleased to announce that Bob Clark has been hired to fill a regional staff position with Sierra Club in Missoula. Bob will be working on a Map, Monitor and Guard project surveying uninventoried roadless areas in western Montana. Look for future announcements about how members can be involved in these wildland surveys. Bob will also be working on the Lewis and Clark Campaign with the Bitterroot-Mission Group. Welcome Bob!

Upper Missouri Update—Helena/Great Falls By Jeff van den Noort

We're Moving

It's official. The Upper Missouri Group is moving to Helena. Recent changes in the Executive Committee, coupled with the realization that most of the group's members reside in the Helena area has prompted us to reorganize the group in Helena. Our hope is that this will also afford us a larger presence at hearings and events in the Capital.

We are currently planning to have an open house in Helena soon to provide an opportunity for our members in the Helena area to meet each other, to learn about what local issues are important to you, and to brainstorm about how to

proceed. If you are interested in helping to reorganize the group, contact Jeff at (406) 582-1871 or jeff@vdnc.com.

We would like to thank all the Great Falls volunteers for all of their hard work over the years.

Watch for a postcard soon announcing the open house.

To Join Our New Email Alert Lists

We have set up email alert lists for the Montana Chapter and one for each of the groups in Montana. To join one or more of the lists, either visit our website (<http://montana.sierraclub.org/>), or send the following email message:

To: `LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG`
Subject: `[this line is ignored and may be left blank]`
Message: `SUB MT-NEWS YourFirstName YourLastName`
`SUB MT-HEADWATERS-NEWS YourFirstName YourLastName`
`SUB MT-MISSION-NEWS YourFirstName YourLastName`
`SUB MT-MISSOURI-NEWS YourFirstName YourLastName`
`SUB MT-YELLOWSTONE-NEWS YourFirstName YourLastName`

Replace "YourFirstName YourLastName" with your own first and last names on ALL LINES. The above example will sign you up for all the Montana lists. Delete the lines that correspond to the lists that you do not want to join. If you need help subscribing to the lists, or you have any other questions, don't hesitate to contact me at web@vdnc.com.

Yellowstone Basin Update—Billings By Mary Wiper

EPEC

The Yellowstone Basin Group and the Billings office have been a part of the Sierra Club's Environmental Public Education Campaign (EPEC) for several years. The EPEC program focuses primarily on a local environmental issue such as preventing oil drilling or other threats to local public lands and on national environmental issues like the roadless initiative or national energy policy.

Weatherman Draw

During the past year, the Yellowstone Basin Group has worked diligently for the protection of Weatherman Draw. Members visited Weatherman Draw with Tribal leaders and archeologists, to learn more about this historically, culturally, and spiritually significant area. YBG also engaged in two outreach events ("literature drops") to inform decision makers of

their concerns about oil drilling in Weatherman Draw, energy development on public lands, and protection of wild, roadless forests. Our outreach events occurred on Earth Day weekend and also in the fall. We are planning significant events for Earth Day 2002! Watch your mailbox.



Outings

There were several outings in the summer of 2001. There are plans for more in 2002, so that folks can get out enjoy the Pryors, Beartooths, Snowies, and other amazing wild places in eastern and south central

Montana with our own special twist.

Coal Bed Methane

In 2002, YBG will be working to protect public lands in eastern Montana from the threats of development of the coal bed methane resource. Without stringent protections in place, coal bed methane development will have serious impacts on the quality of eastern Montana's air, water, and land.

The BLM, Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation, and Montana Department of Environmental Quality recently issued a statewide Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Look for information on how you can get involved in the EIS process, by writing comments or attending a public hearing.

Elections

The YBG recently held elections for the 2002 YBG Executive Committee. The

officers are as follows: Bernard Rose, Chair, Clayton McCracken, Vice Chair, Sally Noe, Treasurer, and Ben Mitchell, Secretary. Bob Rickels, Kris Prinzing, and Scott Prinzing are the other members of the Ex. Comm.

Meeting Schedule

The Executive Committee is planning to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30am at the office. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12th. All members are welcome to attend the meeting. We are interested in your input into the activities of the YBG.

Contact Info

To get in touch with the Yellowstone Basin Group call the office at 406-248-4339, stop by 2822 3rd Ave N #208, or email at Mary.Wiper@sierraclub.org

Montana's Plan to Delist the Grizzly By Heidi Godwin



Wildlife and wild places are important to us here in the west. Not just because they offer a refreshing, vitalizing way to throw off the stresses of everyday life, but because they are what make this place special. We believe that we all benefit from wilderness and big creatures like the grizzly bear and hope that you will help us in protecting this majestic creature.

Right now there is a push in government to take the grizzly

bear in Yellowstone off of the Endangered Species List. If this happens, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming will be responsible for the management of the great bear outside of park. Montana has already drafted its management plan and will be releasing it for public comment sometime in May. (We've had a look at a preliminary draft of the Montana management plan and, thanks to compromise on both sides of the table, the State has come up with a plan that's pretty good for bears.) This comment period will be an important opportunity to make a strong statement to the State that grizzlies matter not only to those of us who love wilderness and wildlife, but to all of us that support and hold these communities together.

Although personal letters tend to be more effective with decision makers, we

understand that everyone is busy. For that reason, we have comment cards available at the Bozeman office that you can sign and send to MT Fish Wildlife and Parks (MTFWP 1400 South 19th, Bozeman, MT 59718) or use as a jumping off point when composing your own comments. The primary points we are asking everyone to address in comments are:

1. Make sure that grizzlies are provided wild, roadless habitat on public lands within and between Yellowstone and the Selway-Bitterroot, and north from Yellowstone to Glacier.
2. Protect bears trying to recolonize areas outside of Yellowstone and the current recovery zone area - especially females. Reconnecting grizzly bear ecosystems, now isolated, is critical to ensuring a healthy future

for the grizzly.

3. Focus on resolving sanitation problems around Yellowstone through education, outreach and putting bear-proof dumpsters on all public lands. Sanitation doesn't need to be a problem for grizzly bears, yet is the result of many mortalities each year due to chronic garbage and sanitation problems.
4. Expand law enforcement efforts - this is one of the critical means of protecting habitat and curbing poaching.

We appreciate you taking the time to let your voice be heard on this important issue. For more information, contact Heidi Godwin at Heidi.Godwin@sierraclub.org, or at 406-582-8365 ext. 3001.

Fact Sheet on Bitterroot Salvage Logging Settlement Prepared by conservation plaintiffs 2/7/02

More information is included in the Mission / Bitterroot Group Update on Page 8.

- The total size of the Bitterroot Burned Area Recovery (BAR) project logging area was reduced from 41,000 acres to approximately 14,000 acres. The Forest Service's original draft project plan had proposed commercial logging on 80,000 acres.
- The amount of roadless areas to be logged was reduced from 16,800 acres to approximately 2,000 acres. This is an 88% percent reduction in logging in uninventoried roadless areas. In almost all of the remaining roadless areas to be logged, cutting is restricted to small trees and no road building is allowed. [The roadless areas involved are uninventoried

roadless areas larger than 1,000 acres (or "unroaded areas") identified by local conservationists.]

- The settlement protects 16,000 acres in several watersheds that support strong populations of bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Percent reduction in logging in bull trout habitat was 72%. Watersheds benefiting from the settlement include Skalkaho Creek, Sleeping Child Creek, Tolan Creek, Blue Joint Creek, and Rye Creek. Many of the protected unroaded areas also provide important habitat for native fish.
- There was a 90% reduction (11,300 acres) in logging in uninventoried roadless areas in bull trout habitat.
- The Forest Service agreed to let stand Judge Molloy's

decision affirming the right of citizens to appeal controversial Forest Service decisions.

- Plaintiffs agreed to dismiss their lawsuits challenging the BAR project and not to contest the 14,000 acres of timber sales.
- The Forest Service agreed to remove 27,000 acres slated for logging from the BAR project and to conduct full environmental analysis and public involvement (including administrative appeals) before conducting any future logging in those areas.
- The agreement calls for increased watershed restoration work in two important watersheds for native fish - Skalkaho Creek and Sleeping Child Creek. The timber industry and conservationists will

jointly ask Congress to provide additional funding for restoration work across the project area.

- The agreement will result in natural vegetative recovery, especially in unroaded areas, that will benefit many wildlife species across the project area.

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Bears and Garbage By Monica Fella

Letter to the Gallatin County Commissioners

December 4, 2001

Gallatin County Commission
311 W. Main Room #306
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to request a meeting with you to discuss the serious problem involving bears and garbage that seems to have worsened in the county, particularly in Big Sky, Gallatin Canyon, and West Yellowstone. We believe that more could and should be done in Gallatin County to protect its natural treasures, black and threatened grizzly bears, and to ensure that public safety is maintained from unnecessary danger posed by food-habituated bears. Specifically, we ask the county to adopt a long overdue ordinance to require garbage be collected and stored in bear proof equipment.

As you are aware, the community of Big Sky lost two black bears this past summer and fall, and had many other human/bear conflicts due to poor sanitation practices and enforcement. This comes on the heels of grizzly mortalities and human-bear conflicts, which could have led to the involved persons being injured unnecessarily. In past years, Gallatin County has had the highest number of grizzly bear/human conflicts in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, accounting for over 40% of all conflicts in the designated 6 million acre recovery zone.

Recent liability cases on national forest lands have assessed millions of dollars against state and federal agencies for injury resulting from agencies knowingly exposing the public to food-

habituated bears. The current situation represents not only an unnecessary threat to the safety of people, bears, and other wildlife, but also an unnecessary liability problem for the county.

Furthermore, many members of the Big Sky community were very upset about the loss of these bears due to human actions. Many residents worked very hard to ensure that their community and residences were bear proof. One of the main problems identified pertains to waste



collection. While residents were interested in properly disposing their waste, some residents complained that it was hard to do because there were no bear-proof dumpsters in their neighborhoods or at local businesses.

Progress is being made in some parts of the county, however. Frustrated with bears prowling Big Sky's Hidden Village property all summer long, manager Kristin Ramirez decided to take matters into her own hands. The Hidden Village Home Owner's Association has agreed to replace the 84 non-bear proof dumpsters on the property with bear proof ones. We applaud such efforts and seek to expand upon them, with your help and leadership.

By contrast, West Yellowstone has had several problems with bears, including the recent appearance of a grizzly in a dumpster only 100 feet from the school. Clearly West Yellowstone is not following the city's own bear proof ordinance. The ordinance states, "All garbage, refuse, and any other food of any type whatsoever edible by bears shall be kept in bear-proof containers designed to make such containers resistant to entry by bears, or shall be otherwise made unavailable to bears, in the town

(6.08.030)." This has resulted in the city being on the receiving end of a lawsuit due to the lack of compliance with the bear proof ordinance. So far the city has not complied with the schedule in the settlement of the case, which will invite further safety threats to citizens and unnecessary conflicts with bears.

In recent months, the Sierra Club, along with the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, has been working very hard in these communities to educate residents on how to bear proof their homes. It has been difficult to convince residents to secure their garbage when the city and county does not provide a secure method of collection. In 2000, the Montana

legislature passed a statute that "prohibits purposely or knowingly attracting bears supplemental feed attractant (food, garbage, or other attractants) or negligently failing to properly store attractants and attracting bears after having been previously warned (SB 104, 87-3-130, MCA)." The county's lack of an ordinance requiring bear proof garbage containers contradicts this statute. A simple solution to this dilemma would be to enact a countywide ordinance that requires all garbage to be stored, collected, and disposed using bear proof methods.

We request a meeting to discuss a resolution to this dangerous situation, and the prospects of adopting a countywide garbage ordinance. Such a measure would go far to ensuring the safety of Gallatin County residents and the well being of its magnificent wildlife. Hopefully, this matter can be resolved over the winter months, ensuring that next summer will be safer, both for the bears and the people of Gallatin County. We will call at the end of this week to schedule a time that is convenient to meet for all interested parties. We look forward to working with you on this issue.

Respectfully,

Monica Fella
Sierra Club Grizzly Bear Project
P.O. Box 1290
Bozeman, MT 59771-1290
on behalf of
Sierra Club
Predator Conservation Alliance
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Audubon Society
Montana River Action Group
Montana Wilderness Association

Weatherman Draw

(Continued from page 3)

On May 18th 2001, I was informed that the BLM had made their decision to go ahead and sign the plan to proceed drilling for oil in the Valley of the Chiefs without doing an Environment Impact Statement (EIS). There are ninety-four sacred cultural sites that have been mapped and studied by BLM and other archeology groups at this date. There is study history back to the 1950's--why did the BLM let this lease? It is said that there is only about 10 million barrels of oil under

this valley, if there is any at all.

Why are we searching for potholes of oil? If energy is this low, why are we not looking for alternative sources of energy that will not destroy the earth and environment? Do we have to milk the earth dry before we look in other places for energy?

AAH _ HOO
Thank you

Howard Boggess is an enrolled member of the Crow Tribe and an oral historian. He has worked in coalition with Sierra Club to prevent oil drilling in Weatherman Draw.



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Activist Alerts

Weatherman Draw

What you can do to help protect Weatherman Draw: The coalition has made significant progress and a solution to protect Weatherman Draw is pending. A process, which may take months, has begun that will make it possible for Anschutz Exploration Corporation and the various Tribes involved to agree on how to protect Weatherman Draw.

As of now, Anschutz has agreed not to drill until June 2002. Write to the Anschutz Exploration Corporation, 555 17th Street, Suite 2400, Denver, CO 80202 or call (303) 298-1000 and ask for their support of a solution to permanently protect Weatherman Draw.

Other Action Alerts

What you can do to help protect:

Grizzly Bears (See Page 10)

Air Quality--Tire Burning (See Page 1)

Snowmobiles in Yellowstone (See Page 8)

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