



Kettle Range
Conservation Group
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Mission

Our mission is to defend wilderness, protect biodiversity, and restore ecosystems of the Columbia River Basin.

Board of Directors

Steve Anthes
- President
Cleve Ives
- Vice President
Ellen Picken
- Treasurer
Tom May
- Secretary
Dave Gordon
Elaine Clough
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A NOTE TO YOU

You're holding in your hands the first full-length newsletter Kettle Range Conservation Group has published since we went into "sleep mode" after our June 2004 merger with Conservation Northwest (CNW).

In April, due to budget constraints, CNW closed its Republic office and laid me off. At the end of July, I received the first of two installments from CNW to help jumpstart KRCG's re-emergence. We appreciate their support and look forward to our continued working relationship with KRCG's former staff Derrick Knowles, Crystal Gartner and David Heflick in addition to our alliance with conservation groups from across Washington and the Pacific Northwest. Rest assured the work begun by KRCG some 35 years ago continues today.

Like a bear, rousing each spring to a fresh new world, KRCG awakens each spring to review scholarship applications from local high school seniors hoping to land one of our \$1,000 college endowments. It's rewarding to grant money to earnest and eager students destined to be future leaders, and for the last 15 years that's exactly what KRCG has done. During KRCG's sleep mode, the Board of Directors also held auctions and banquets to raise awareness about local issues, and just as importantly, to raise money for the Columbia Highlands Initiative that we created in 2002. Some of you never gave up your dedication to KRCG and its grassroots, rural identity. Thank you for holding on to the dream that has brought us to this day.

Today, we are at a milestone in KRCG's much respected and heralded 35-year history of rural community forest, water and wildlife conservation work. Up to 2002, our mission was primarily defending wild places, ancient forests, native plants and animals and rallying the grassroots to speak out against clearcutting, taxpayer built roads in our public forests and other atrocities that threatened ecosystems from the Cascades to the Rockies. Our accomplishments are many and our vision for a healthy future is balanced by decades of experience and dedication to conserving Mother Earth's native ecosystems.

It was with great enthusiasm the KRCG Board of Directors gathered to elect new board officers and discuss 2011-12 budget and program objectives. Newly elected board officers include Ellen Picken – Treasurer; Tom May - Secretary; Cleve Ives - Vice President; and Steve Anthes – President; together with board members Elaine Clough, Dinah Reed, Lynn O'Connor and Dave Gordon. I want to express my deepest gratitude for their volunteer service.

The work of getting a Wilderness bill introduced is within our reach. KRCG has the dedication, grassroots muscle and political relationships to help get legislation passed. Unlike earlier efforts, today, most of the local forest products industry supports new Wilderness in the Kettle Range and Selkirk Mountains. Now, we are waiting for some leadership from the other Washington to follow up on leadership at the local level.

Peace be with you, *Timothy J. Coleman, Executive Director*



Last fall several friends and I hiked across the heart of Twin Sisters Roadless Area on a multi-day trek through the Kettle Range. Twin Sisters comprises the vast green shroud upon which visitors to the Kettle Crest look when they gaze eastward. Climbing up the steep eastern slope of King Mountain, through a dense lodgepole forest that towered above a surprisingly lush carpet of bunchgrass and lupine, we rounded a curve and stumbled across the mossy, decrepit remains of an old cabin.

The experience awed me. Long before the Forest Service began parceling up the forest, this cabin's inhabitants eked out a life far from any roads or modern conveniences. This cabin was a testament to human self-reliance and perseverance, a compelling relic of the region's pioneer past. It was also a testament to the intransigence of man's works, a reminder that what we stake out as our own Mother Nature eventually reclaims.

Wilderness foes will argue that such signs of human habitation disqualify the wild lands of northeast Washington from Wilderness status. Not so. In fact, the Wilderness Act of 1964 explicitly states that:

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable... and may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.”

The idea that Wilderness areas should bear no sign of human habitation is a manifestation of what geographer William Denevan calls “the Pristine Myth”, the suggestion that prior to European settlement, the lands of what are now the United States existed in an untouched, endemic state. In fact, Native Americans substantially impacted the lands on which they lived; for example, many groups set controlled burns to increase browse, influence game movement, and stimulate berry production.

Bestowing Wilderness designation upon places that have been altered by humans is not unprecedented. For example, the grassy balds and lush vegetation that one associates with the Wilderness areas of the Blue Ridge Mountains are the result of extensive logging that occurred in the first three decades of the 20th Century. In fact, one would be hard pressed to find significant tracts of untouched old-growth forest in a Wilderness area east of the Mississippi!

Fewer people live today in many parts of northeast Washington than at the peak of European settlement a century ago. As the great wave of miners, settlers and schemers receded, they left a few artifacts.

In Profanity Roadless Area, on the northern half of the Kettle Crest, for example, can be found the Old Stage Road, the last remnant of Washington's first cross-state highway. Thirteenmile Trail follows an old sheep driveway that used to connect Ellensburg to the high-country summer forage of the Kettle Crest. Old lookouts, drift fences, saw mills, Indian hunting camps—these are some of the last vestiges of our wild heritage in northeast Washington. On their own they deserve protection; they certainly do not dilute the essentially wild qualities of our remaining roadless areas.

Wilderness is a living, mutable museum. Where other remnants of our past have been paved over or plowed under, our remaining roadless areas hold in their wooded grottoes the artifacts of our heritage. Here we can watch, in the decay of old cabin timbers or the filling-in of old trade routes, the slow but implacable force of time and be both awed and humbled. Thirty, forty, fifty years from now that old cabin on King Mountain will still be receding into the forest, if we let nature do its work.



What is this wild land but someone to keep up with creatively, to be one step behind but long desperately to understand and emulate? Our land makes us great *and* humbles us. Art and environment are inseparable in the American West. It is our cultural heritage, but not history.

America's track record during Westward Expansion was commonly dominated by alterations of the land, attempts to tame it, kill it, cultivate and replace domestic with native. Fortunately with the help of artists our first acts to conserve the West were possible.

Not long after Europe's Romantic painter Caspar David Friedrich was depicting spiritual angst and rejuvenation through cathedrals reclaimed by nature and the lonely monk by the sea, our Hudson River School artists began traveling West. Europe had the weight of history that could only be uplifted through a re-invented connection with nature. What artists in America experienced was creation in the making. The vast untrammled landscape gave a new perspective, that of hope, ambition, and optimism, cultural traits we still value today.

Painter Albert Bierstadt traveled with early explorers to the Sierras, Yosemite, the Puget Sound. His colossal works are overwhelming, charged with an exaggerated light that came from the awe he experienced deep in the wilds. Though a product of his era Bierstadt also saw what the expansion brought. "Christ is one with His creatures and so man must treat his fellow creatures as Christ would. The continual slaughter of native species must be halted before all is lost." His and other artists' works along with the effort of conservationists convinced

Abraham Lincoln to establish Yosemite as one of our first National Parks.



One of America's most beloved photographers Ansel Adams became interested in the West through the writings of James Mason Hutchings. Adams did not start out a conservationist, but time spent observing the land brought him to understand and appreciate it. He and many other photographers campaigned to preserve much of the Western landscape we enjoy today. It was evident in his curated exhibition of 1940 that American art was indebted to the wilderness.

Trends in art change built on each preceding generation, but the land continues to be a source for artists today. The insight artists give affects us culturally in more ways than having great museum collections. It isn't simply garden painting or art in the park that moves a culture this way. It is experiencing the sublimity of Wilderness. Preserving what is left of our world in a way that allows it to be creative and give us fresh perspective is so important. The Kettle Range is just such a place that deserves permanent protection. How great for us in this small corner of the country to contribute to our world in such a big way.

More on the web at:
www.nps.gov/yose/historyculture/ansel-adams.htm
www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/ansel/peopleevents/e_wilderness.html

KETTLE RANGE CONSERVATION GROUP HISTORY

During our 35 years of conservation work we have met many challenges facing our national forests and rural communities throughout northeast and north central Washington. Our longest running campaign to

protect national forest wilderness in the wild and unroaded backcountry of the Kettle River Range, Okanogan Highlands and Selkirk Mountains continues today. The Kettle Range Conservation Group is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, conservation organization founded in 1976.



COLVILLE, OKANOGAN-WENTACHEE FOREST PLAN REVISION

The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires each national forest to develop resource management plans for every acre of its forest that provides broad guidance for more site-specific management actions, and to revise its plan every 10-15 years. The Colville (CNF) and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (O-WNF) forest plans were revised in 1988 and 1989, respectively, are over 22 years old and as such are very much outdated.

June 30 the Forest Service released the Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee Proposed Action for Plan Revisions that is an outline of proposed management changes to existing forest plans. The agency is presently seeking public comments to help it develop a set of management alternatives it expects to release to the public in 2012. Deadline for submitting public comments is September 28.

WHY SHOULD YOU GET INVOLVED?

If you care about clean water, wildlife & plants, fish & wildlife, roadless areas, ancient forests and recreation, you'll want to participate in this process even if you just send a letter or email. National Forests are your forests and the nation's forests and in order to insure they are managed for the greatest good requires your attention.

PLANNING 101

The U.S. Forest Service is the lead government agency managing our national forests. Each forest is managed independently and forests are grouped by regions, in this case, the CNF and O-WNF are in Region 6. In 2004, the agency announced these forests' plans would be revised and invited public to comment.

At present, the agency expects to release its final plan revision in 2013. In the case of the CNF, during the last 7 years the Forest Service used a collaborative model, convening several public processes to help inform its plan revisions, while at the same time the O-WNF relied mostly on its chartered Resource Advisory Councils to advise its process.

The Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition (NEWFC) has been instrumental in working with the Forest Service to develop its CNF collaborative processes as well as holding its own outreach to business and community groups to advise development of what it calls its "Blueprint" for managing the CNF that NEWFC says is a "balanced proposal that has something for everybody."

NEWFC was co-founded by KRCG in 2002 and is itself a collaboration between timber industry, conservation, business, Forest Service and other government entities. The Blueprint places the CNF into zones of active management, forest restoration, wilderness and other protective designations. During the last 9 years, NEWFC has helped move more than 25 CNF forestry projects to completion.

ADMINISTRATIVELY RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS

Unlike the 1980's generation forest plans when the Forest Service was prohibited by the 1984 Washington Wilderness Act from recommending new wilderness areas, the law requires this round of forest planning complete a review of potential new wilderness areas that the Forest Service will recommend to Congress.

Presently, about two percent of the CNF is designated as wilderness – the least of any national forest in the region. Thirty-four percent of the O-WNF is designated wilderness. In their Proposed Action, the Forest Service recommends adding 101,000 acres of new wilderness to the CNF, or 9% of the 1.1 million-acre forest, and adding 125,000 acres to the 4 million acre O-WNF – or about 37% of the Forest.

The Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition asked the Forest Service to recommend 17 of 22 Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) in northeast Washington (including Hungry Mt. IRA managed by the Idaho Panhandle N.F.) as wilderness and designate 4 IRAs be protected in a new national conservation area. Yet the Proposed Action recommends wilderness for only *portions* of five IRAs: Abercrombie-Hooknose, Profanity, Hoodoo, Bald-Snow and Salmo-Priest Additions.

COLVILLE, OKANOGAN-WENTACHEE FOREST PLAN REVISION

During the Forest Service's nine month Colville Forest Summit that included 80 representatives from groups across NE Washington and elected officials, a consensus agreement was reached supporting non-degradation of all IRAs. Yet the Proposed Action would permit 150,000 acres of IRAs containing majestic primeval forest to be logged and even the development of a uranium mine on Mt. Leona in the heart of the Kettle Crest roadless area!

PLEASE HELP – TAKE ACTION!

Please write a letter to the Forest Service thanking them for recommending five IRAs for wilderness and in your own words include the following points:

- The Forest Service's wilderness recommendation for portions of 5 IRAs while a good first step falls short – **9% is not enough!** The Forest Service should include the entirety of the five roadless areas and not leave tens of thousands of acres open to logging and mining.
- Support a “no degradation” of roadless areas assigned as agreed to by consensus during the Colville Forest Summit. There should be no commercial timber harvest or mining in IRAs.
- Create a new "Delayed Wilderness" category for IRAs that meet wilderness suitability but may need some limited restoration before they become "Recommended Wilderness."
- Please recommend 17 of 21 IRAs for wilderness. Especially important are biologically-rich old growth forests of Thirteenmile, Cougar, Twin Sisters, Clackamas Mountain, Jackson Creek, Hall, Grassy Top, Harvey Creek and Quartzite IRAs.
- Support the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition's balance approach that includes three new National Recreation Areas and agreed to by a consensus of the public during the Forest Summit.
- Create a new “conservation area” management area that includes Owl Mountain, Deer Creek, Jackknife Mountain and South Huckleberry roadless areas.
- Wilderness is an investment. It's an insurance policy guaranteeing future generations will inherit wild roadless areas we enjoy today.

- Wilderness and roadless areas are key sources of clean water.
- Wilderness provides safe habitat for wildlife to live and prosper.
- Wilderness is a great place to camp, hike, ski, ride a horse, hunt and fish.

FUTURE GENERATIONS ARE DEPENDING ON YOU - PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS

Email comments are good.

Written and mailed comments are best.

SEND WRITTEN COMMENTS TO:

Forest Plan Revision Team
Margaret Hartzell, Team Leader
Okanogan Valley Office
1240 Second Avenue South
Okanogan, WA 98840

SEND EMAIL COMMENTS TO:

r6_ewzplanrevision@fs.fed.us

ON THE WEB:

For more Forest Service info:

www.fs.usda.gov/goto/okawen/plan-revision

For more NEWFC info:

www.newforestrycoalition.org

Bookmark and find info at the Kettle Range site:

www.kettlerange.org





PROJECT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS \$1000 GRANT



Kettle Range Conservation Group awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship to Cheyenne Saltsman of Republic at the Republic High School 2011 graduation ceremonies. Since 1996, Kettle Range Conservation Group's Project Scholarship has

contributed over \$38,000 in scholarships to seniors from Ferry, Stevens, and Okanogan counties.

Kettle Range Board member Cleve Ives explained to the overflow audience how a scholarship candidate must first achieve outstanding academic success. They then write an essay exploring the vital connection between the health of Earth's environment and the health of human societies.

Cleve described how Cheyenne has put Ferry County on the map statewide as an equestrienne rider and rodeo performer. Ms. Saltsman also participated in 4-H for thirteen years, earning medals at the State 4-H Fair. She is taking two horses with her to Northwest College in Wyoming to compete in collegiate rodeo when she is not studying for a degree in range management.

Cheyenne's lifelong love of horses has instilled a strong concern for healthy range lands and native grasses. In her scholarship essay she discussed how soil erosion, invasive weeds, and overgrazing damage creeks and the grasses they nourish. Cheyenne concluded by stating, "It is my goal to be a loud voice for the future preservation and sustainability of our range and forest lands."

Info about Project Scholarship on the KRCG website.

DARK SKY STAR GAZING ON THE KETTLE CREST - *Ellen Picken, Board of Directors*

The Kettle Range is special for many reasons: intact wildlife habitat, clear fresh water, unbeatable hiking. But did you know we have one of the darkest night skies in the US? Thanks to the undeveloped nature of our Roadless Areas on the Colville National Forest, we rank 2 on a scale of 1 through 9! Nine...think of New York City at night. One is the Australian Outback. Yes, the Kettle Range is special.

Bring your binoculars or telescope to experience the night the way it is meant to be seen. Local star expert, and amateur astronomer Jerry Graser, will be on hand to describe the night sky and point out UFO's. With any luck the August meteor showers will be on display too! Warm drinks provided.

If you are from out of the area, there is a well kept camp ground about 1/3 mile east from the top of Sherman Pass. Please RSVP by email if you are camping so I can try to hold a spot for you.

Coming early to hike is a good idea too. There are only nine spots, though two cars can easily fit in one. There is a \$6 fee, and no water. More camping may be an option further down the pass, or hotels in Republic are pretty swell too. End of August can be hot or cold. Please come prepared.

See you up there!

Ellen Picken, Board of Directors
Email: picken.e@gmail.com

- Saturday: August 27th, new moon
- Time: 8:30 pm - until you get tired
(the sunsets at 7:40 PM)
- Location: White Mountain Fire overlook, off Hwy 20, on the west side of Sherman Pass
- Camping: Sherman Pass Overlook camp ground



On behalf of the Board of Directors I'd like to personally thank all our supporters who have believed in the Kettle Range Conservation Groups efforts to save the last wild places in northeastern Washington. Our mission, and great challenge, is educating local citizens, including community, district and state representatives about the economic and spiritual benefits of Wilderness. As long as we have the passion of our members and support of our volunteers providing us with the resources to make a difference, we will continue to do what we do best: defending the last remaining wild forests in our little corner of Paradise.

If you're reading this newsletter and are not yet a member of the Kettle Range Conservation Group, please consider joining. We are a small but growing group demonstrating the powerful influence of a grass-roots organization. We are on-the-ground everyday doing community outreach, participating in

forest planning, working with elected officials, engaging business and community leaders and working as hard as we can to permanently protect ancient forests, wellsprings of clean water, native plants & animals and solitude in our last remaining wilderness in the Colville National Forest. Since 1976, we've taken on daunting obstacles, and more importantly, today we have confidence we can succeed against superior strength and odds.

If you believe the last wild places in our region should be permanently preserved...for us and for future generations...I urge you to consider a tax-deductible donation in the form of a yearly membership. Your generosity will go a long way and any amount helps us continue our work. Please use the membership form included in this newsletter.

Thanks for your support.
Sincerely, *Steve Anthes - President*

KRCG UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 27 KRCG Dark Sky Star Gazing. See page 6 and contact Ellen: picken.e@gmail.com
- Sept 9-10 Gibraltar Trail work party. Call Tim: 775-2667
- **Sept 16 Talking Kettle Range - Free BBQ with local grass fed beef /veggie burger; letter writing party - Republic Parish Hall, 5-7PM**
- Sept 28 - Comments due on Proposed Action of the Colville NF. See page 4 and 5 of this newsletter

KRCG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kettle Range Conservation Group is guided by a dedicated team of volunteers: the Board of Directors. Current Board members come for a variety of backgrounds but share one thing in common: a passion to fulfill the KRCG mission to defend wilderness, protect biodiversity, and restore ecosystems of the Columbia River Basin. The Board is responsible for the development and activities as well as adopting official policies, rules of practice, procedures and positions of KRCG. Board members are nominated by existing Board members and serve for a period of three years. If you have any questions for the Board of Directors or a desire to be a Board member, please email Steve Anthes, President: santhes@kettlerange.org.



Left to right: Dave Gordon; Cleve Ives, Vice President; Steve Anthes, President; Tom May, Secretary; Elaine Clough; Ellen Picken, Treasurer. Not pictured: Lynn O'Connor and Dinah Reed



Please support community collaboration work. Your annual membership supports protecting clean water, wildlife, special places while promoting healthy forests in the Colville National Forest. *All contact information is strictly confidential and is never shared or published.*

Kettle Range Conservation Group is a 501(c)3 non-profit, community charity founded by a concerned group of citizens in Republic, Washington in 1976. Your membership dues are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please fill out this form, include your check and mail it back to:

Kettle Range Conservation Group
P.O. Box 150, Republic, WA 99166

We're rebuilding our member list. Please send us the names of those you think would like to be members. Email or USPS is OK.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ I prefer Email newsletter only
(We'll never sell or share your email address)

- \$25 Basic annual membership \$50 Wilderness supporter annual membership
 \$75 Wilderness Defender annual membership \$100 Wilderness Champion annual membership
 Other amount: \$ _____ One time donation: \$ _____

I'd like to volunteer doing: _____



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