

HighlandsNEWS

JOURNAL OF KETTLE RANGE CONSERVATION GROUP

July 2012



Kettle Range
Conservation Group
POB 150
Republic, WA 99166
(509) 775-2667

Timothy J. Coleman
Executive Director

Email:
tcoleman@kettlerange.org
Website:
www.kettlerange.org

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
Lynn O'Connor
Dinah Reed



Printed in Republic
on recycled paper.
Please recycle.

TENTH ANNUAL KETTLE RANGE RENDEZVOUS

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY
JULY 14TH & 15TH**

**CAMPING * POTLUCK DINNER * CAMPFIRE
POTLUCK BARBECUE * LIVE MUSIC * HIKES
SPECIAL SUNDAY OMELET BREAKFAST
DON'T MISS THIS FREE, ONCE A YEAR EVENT**



Saturday hikes to:

- Hoodoo Canyon
- Wapaloosie to Jungle Hill
- Sherman Peak Loop
- Stickpin to Ryan's Cabin

Hikes start at 10:00 AM from
the group campsite

Meet at the Jungle Hill
campground off Hwy 20.
You can camp-out Friday
night as well as Saturday if
you choose. A group
campground will be set-up
with campfire and BBQ.
Please bring all your own
camping gear and water.



A NOTE TO YOU Timothy J. Coleman, Executive Director



Health and Paradox

Life starts with food that of course comes from the earth. Mind you not dirt but living soil teaming with such life that a pinch of it contains literally thousands of life forms, many of them yet unnamed. Every piece of land is

part of a watershed or aquifer and its health quantified by the diversity and health of species that live within it. Take soil, insert seed and add water. That's life! The paradox – the theme of this article - is that society treats the Earth as if it was just an object for human use.

Here in the Columbia Highlands the health and beauty of our environment are special to all of us and it is the mission of Kettle Range Conservation Group to defend, protect and preserve its health. We are rural-based and our shared experience over three dozen years advises us the health of our environment is subject to forces beyond county, state and federal government. A fixation on jobs, petty political divisions and economic growth (at least for the 1%) leaves the integrity of people and the land at risk.

I've always thought it a paradox that individuals calling themselves conservative, libertarian, freedom-fighters, etc. are against progressive environmental regulations that were made law to protect people and ecosystems from pollution, corporate plundering – especially from public lands such as our national forests -- and even truth-speaking on our public airwaves. Is it conservative to oppose conservation? Is it pro-life to support industries to emit toxic pollution – like arsenic, mercury, et al – that kills people? In the U.S. it is legal to tell lies on *public* airwaves to sell a product, political candidate or that regulations *are killing* jobs while crony capitalists send them overseas.

Why should you care? Because, crony capitalism has its eye on the Columbia Highlands.

From the late 60's to the mid 70's the Nixon administration and Congress championed historic new environmental laws: Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act. Conservative politicians like Nixon were like today's moderates (who are now almost exclusively Democrats). Now, political conservatives call for repeal of those environmental protections or add loopholes to them that essentially makes them meaningless because, they believe, those regulations hinder economic growth as if, paradoxically, healthy ecosystems are bad but unhealthy ones are good. So pulling the plug on the lifeboat creates jobs at the shipyard?

Consensus – the Ultimate Paradox

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and her staff have often said that if consensus could be reached by various groups involved in the process about protecting new wilderness areas in the Colville National Forest, she'd introduce legislation.

Try holding your breath for three minutes and ask yourself if consensus matters – or is it life that matters? At the recent Rio+20 Summit on climate – the largest gathering of world governments ever held – the process to enact control measures on climate changing gases required consensus agreement. As such any meaningful plan failed to be adopted *even* in the face of increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide now greater than at than at any time in 650,000 years *and* which is increasing ocean acidity, threatening phytoplankton that produce much of the oxygen we breathe – and not to mention a lot of weird weather!

All that Rio “*stuff*” got me thinking about our local situation. Why not require consensus agreement on whether irrigators can de-water the Kettle River killing fish? How about consensus on whether off-highway vehicles can run up and down our county roads, or whether cows can poop in our headwater streams? I'm not trying to be antagonistic; I just want to draw the paradox here that serves a few people at the expense of the rest of us. Imagine if consensus voting was required of Congress in order for it to hand out billions in taxpayer subsidies to Big Oil, coal, nuclear and agribusiness.

Life in and Outside the Box

Much of our society's built environment mirrors elements of the natural world. Our music, art, language emanates from nature. As paradoxical as the forces of greed and life sometime seem be mindful that in the Universe an equal and opposite reaction will inevitably result – it's the law.

John Muir wrote the clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness. Muir lived at the onset of the Industrial Age when wilderness was vastly larger and the human population about 20% compared to today yet he was as fascinated by wild things as we are today. Even at a time of great abundance it wasn't wealth that inspired visionaries like Muir, Aldo Leopold or Teddy Roosevelt, it was true conservatism and a belief that preserving the land was key to the survival of the culture.

We must speak truth to power, draw attention to paradoxical governance that is a disservice to people and the planet and ground ourselves in what is real. To quote Muir: “I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.”

PROJECT SCHOLARSHIP - AN ONGOING SUCCESS STORY

Kettle Range Conservation Group offers scholarships each year to area high-school seniors through its Project Scholarship. Funding is provided through donations from members like you, supporters, local citizens and area businesses...and our fall fund raising auction. One-hundred percent of donations to Project Scholarship go directly to students. We also manage a scholarship endowment fund started with seed-money from private donors and matched by the State of Washington. Since 1996, Kettle Range Conservation Group has presented over \$40,000 in academic scholarships.

Kettle Range Conservation Group believes the ability of rural students to attend college is tied to their success in raising the necessary funds to pay for tuition and books. Our Project Scholarship provides financial support to outstanding students to help meet the raising cost of completing college. Every year between one to three \$1000 scholarships are presented to high-school seniors in Colville, Curlew, Inchelium, Kettle Falls, Republic, and Tonasket.

Scholarships are awarded to winning applicants during senior graduation ceremonies. The selection criteria are simple and straight-forward. A committee reviews student applications, selecting grantees based on grade point average, essay quality and subject matter, letters of recommendation and extra-curricular activities, especially volunteering in out community. Emphasis is placed on student need, community involvement and the caliber of the essay. Certification of college enrollment is required before issuance of scholarship grants.

This year's awards went to seniors Christina Beckwith and Iris Summy both of Republic. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the college of their choice. Christina will be attending Washington State University with a major in environmental engineering. Iris will be attending Evergreen College with a major in environmental science or psychology. Both Christina and Iris engaged in many extra-curricular academic and sports activities's plus many hours of volunteer work in our community...all while maintaining 3.9 GPA's.



Christina Beckwith



Iris Summy

Project Scholarship applications for the current school year may be submitted beginning in March. Donations to Project Scholarship are tax-deductible. To donate or for more information regarding Project Scholarship call 509-775-2667 or visit us on the web at: www.kettlerange.org

A special thanks to all KRCG members, supporters, local citizens and area businesses who have donated funds and/or goods to support Project Scholarship. Without your support yearly scholarships to local students would not be possible.

KRCG RECEIVES GRANTS

We'd like to thank Patagonia Environmental Grants and the Mountaineers Foundation for their support of Kettle Range Conservation Group's work. Competition for grants is very high and the number of grantors supporting community collaboration, new wilderness and outreach in rural communities are few and far between compared to a decade ago.



Patagonia Environmental Grants support small, grassroots activist organizations like KRCG working on multi-pronged campaigns to preserve and protect our environment.



The Mountaineers Foundation promotes the study of the mountains, forests and streams of the Pacific Northwest and preserving its natural beauty and ecological integrity.

Grant funds will support our program work in the Columbia Highlands. We are honored to receive grants from Patagonia Environmental Grants and the Mountaineers Foundation and we sincerely thank them for their support of our work to defend wilderness, protect biodiversity and restore ecosystems of the Columbia River Basin.

COLUMBIA HIGHLANDS INITIATIVE TAKES TO THE TRAIL

All work and no play makes the Rangers a sad bunch. That's why this summer the Columbia Highlands Initiative is offering Highlands After Work hikes, our 10th Annual Kettle Rendezvous and trail restoration of the Big Lick Trail, Bear Pot Trail and construction of the Gibraltar Trail. Please join us for one or all of these fun events and help maintain and add to our trail infrastructure.

We kicked off the hiking season with a splendid Highlands After Work hike on the Ten Mile Trail, ten miles south of Republic just off of SR 21. Beautiful spring flowers welcomed our journey on this gorgeous 2.5 mile Trail that entertains expansive views of the San Poil River and Ten Mile canyons.

Braving sporadic rain showers July 16 several volunteers tackled the job of clearing the first few miles of the Big Lick Trail. Downed trees, overgrown brush, noxious weed pulling and repairing sections of the damaged trail tread were the goal of the day. Maintenance of the Big Lick Trail was initiated by KRCG in 1991.



Volunteers enjoyed the camaraderie of working side-by-side with other trail enthusiasts and the satisfaction of a day's hard work accomplishing something positive. Snacks and drinks were provided at the end of the day.

Big Lick Trail #30 in the Colville National Forest is a non-motorized trail offering expansive views of the Okanogan Highlands. Access the trail from SR 21 about a mile north of Malo, turning east on Aenaes Creek Road, then about 6 miles to FSR#566 and then right onto FSR #260 which leads a short distance to the Big Lick trailhead. From its beginning this trail offers expansive views, impressive stands of old growth forests, wildflowers as well as opportunities to see many bird species and wildlife. The Big Lick Trail is a great asset to our community and is a destination for outdoor enthusiasts seeking the peace, fresh air and solitude that wilderness offers. The Big Lick Trail is featured in many hiking and backpacking books and websites.

There will be several opportunities to plug into trail work this summer including Gibraltar Trail construction and repair of Bear Pot Trail in Thirteenmile Roadless Area. These and other opportunities to sign-up to volunteer your time to help maintain local trails is needed. Volunteer for a work party by contacting Tim at 775-2667, tcoleman@kettlerange.org or at our website: www.kettlerange.org



BLAST FROM THE PAST

KRCG volunteers working on the Big Lick Trail in 1993. Recognize anyone?

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

- Chief Seattle, 1855

BODIE MOUNTAIN HIKE REVIEW

Dominated by open, park-like stands of old-growth Douglas-fir and crisscrossed by ridges and rocky ravines, Bodie Mountain roadless area is northeast Washington's "big sky" country.

Here, just a few miles north of Republic, the Old West still lives. From the rocky, sagebrush-covered knobs one can peer out over the remains of ghost towns, the only vestiges from boom times over a century old. Bodie Mountain Roadless Area also contains large swaths of old-growth Douglas-fir forest, a forest type that is common on the Rocky Mountain Front but incredibly rare in Washington.



The ridge that runs from Bodie to Bamber Mountain forms the spine of the area and offers 360-degree views. To the west, the broad ridgeline of Bonaparte, and on the distant horizon, the Cascades. To the north, the prominent peaks of the Monashees in British Columbia. And to the east, the panorama of the Kettle Range. Steep draws lined with aspen and chokecherry tumble down off the rocky ridgeline. Small ponds, both permanent and vernal, dot the landscape.



Although relatively small, Bodie Mountain roadless area acts as a waystation for wildlife moving between nearby roadless "islands". Black bears frequent the slopes in the spring, digging for roots and overturning rocks in a search for grubs. Mule deer graze the ridgeline under the tree canopy, unfazed by human presence before casually pronking away. Cavity-nesters such as owls and woodpeckers make use of the many old-growth snags on the ridgeline.

The best way to explore Bodie Mountain is on the seven mile Tonata Creek trail, which departs from the summit of Bodie below an old Cold War-era radar defense installation. Although remains of other old Forest Service trails can be found with careful exploration, the green, meandering slopes—full of arrowleaf balsamroot, shooting star, woodland star, parsnip-flowered buckwheat and others—are perfect for striking out on your own. The gold has long since been carted away, but you are sure to strike it rich in views, wildlife and solitude.

Interested in exploring the Bodie Mountain roadless area? Join Kettle Range Conservation Group July 21 for a guided hike on the Tonata Creek trail as part of KRCG's summer hikes series. Sign up at our website or email [Tim: tcoleman@kettlerange.org](mailto:tcoleman@kettlerange.org)

CALENDAR of FREE KRCG EVENTS

- July 21 @ 5:30 PM Bodie Mountain
- Aug. 8 @ 5:30 PM - Kid's Hike, Long Lake. A Highlands After Dinner hike
- Aug. 17 @ 8 PM - Star Gazing. White Mt. Fire Overlook Hwy 20, Republic
- Aug. 22 - Huckleberry picking. Time and location TBD - depends when berries are ripe
- Sept. 13 @ 6 PM - Wilderness picture show at the Republic Elementary multi-purpose room
- Oct. 11 @ 6 PM : *Greatest Good* video and discussion. Republic Elementary multi-purpose room
- Oct. 27 @ 3 PM: Annual KRCG Fund Raising Auction. Parish Hall, Republic

Signup on our website, call 775-2667 or email Tim: tcoleman@kettlerange.org

COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Cattlemen group trains County Commissioners

On April 27, Ferry County commissioners Brad Miller, Brian Dandel and commissioners from Stevens County held the first in what was described as ongoing “coordination” meetings with officials of the Colville National Forest. A press release from Trademark America (TA) noted the “...meeting was led by Ferry County Commissioner Brian Dandel, who has received extensive coordination training from Trademark America,” wrote Traci Grant. “Government entities will tackle open issues including the protection of private property, planning for increased timber harvesting and other multiple uses, habitat planning for threatened and endangered species, and more,” Grant wrote. Grant noted that commissioner’s objective was “to produce a Forest Plan that is acceptable to all government levels and legally defensible.”

TA noted that prior to the Colville meeting it’s “veteran coordinator Ron Olfert spent many hours preparing the commissioners for the process, sharing his expertise in coordinating with federal agencies.” According to commissioner reports, this preparation training was provided by Stevens County Cattleman’s Association. At their April 27 event commissioners seated a panel including Olfert, Lorna Johnson (Kettle River Advisory Board), Gary Nielsen (Stevens Co. Public Lands Advisory Committee), Scott Nielsen (Stevens Co. Cattleman’s Assoc.) and U.S. Forest Service officials. Members of the public attended but only panelists and commissioners were allowed to speak or ask questions. Because inadequate public notice of this meeting was given it is likely it violated Washington’s Open Public Meetings Act.

During the meeting commissioners requested a multitude of documents from the Forest Service including all historic photos, maps, GIS data and documentation regarding former timber harvest areas, roads, cattle grazing allotments, Inventoried Roadless Areas and IRAs the agency is considering for wilderness preservation.

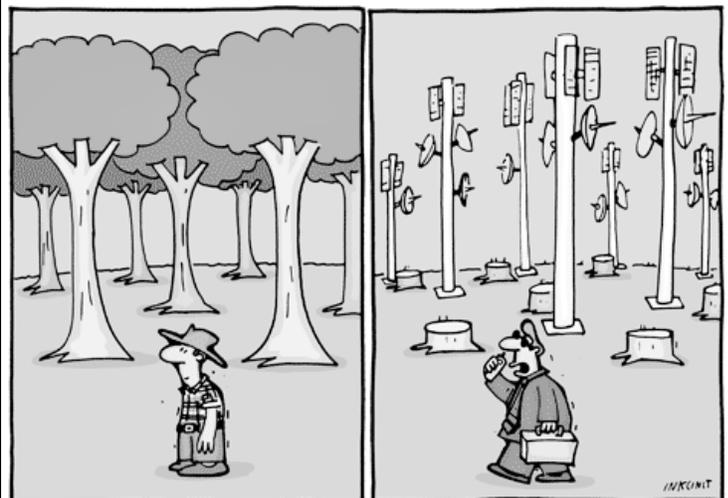
Trademark America is an Idaho-based group that describes itself as a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit

organization specializing in “formal coordination process” regarding government-to-government development or implementation of public policy. TA’s board member and attorney Fred K. Grant has served as litigation coordinator for Stewards of the Range and now as president of American Stewards of Liberty and is also constitutional law expert for the Goldwater Institute. Grant has been involved in litigation against the federal government in Idaho and other states and asserts he now “helps ranchers, farmers and landowners protect themselves from arbitrary government regulations.”

Colville National Forest officials provide commissioners with periodic updates regarding forest management. Commissioners are also invited to bi-monthly meetings of Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition and the U.S. Forest Service.

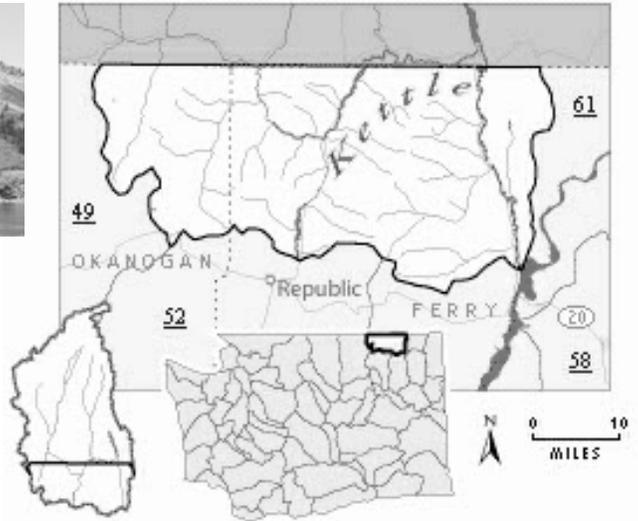
Forest Planning to Come

The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires national forest plans to be revised every 10-15 years. The Forest Service recently announced a delay in release of their draft environmental impact statement for revision of the Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee (WOC) National Forest management plans, now 23 years old, until sometime this fall. The DEIS will compare alternative ways of managing these forests and outline the physical, biological, social and economic effects of each alternative.



The forests we used to have

The forests we have today



KETTLE RIVER WATERSHED PLANNING

Ever wonder where the water in the Kettle River comes from? Did you know that 80% of the Kettle River watershed lays up north in British Columbia? You might think, ‘What happens in B.C. stays in B.C.’...but Ferry County is downstream, so any decisions made by the environmental department of the Canadian government will directly impact the Kettle River watershed and the river that runs through our communities.

The Kettle River watershed is defined as all the land, forests, wetlands and streams that drain into the Kettle River...on both sides of the line. WRIA 60 (Water Resource Inventory Area), as the Kettle River watershed is officially designated, includes the portion of the Kettle River watershed located within Ferry County, eastern Okanogan County and western Stevens County. And it includes farms and homesteads in both B.C. and the U.S. Don't forget the lumber mill and factories in Grand Forks.

Picture a watershed as a huge underground sponge. Water in the sponge comes from somewhere else and goes somewhere else. With this kind of flow in mind, it seems apparent a watershed must be protected to produce clean, reliable water and healthy ecosystems for fish and wildlife and at the same time anticipate the growth of communities relying on the ‘sponge’ for water. As water, mostly from B.C., is removed from the watershed and the river by U.S. side irrigators, the sponge is ‘squeezed’. This reduces downstream flow and increases water temperatures, adversely impacting native trout fisheries.

So what about a plan to protect the Kettle River watershed? Well, in the past, Ferry County has received \$223,487 in grants from the Washington Department of Ecology to develop a watershed plan. After almost a year of contentious public meetings, in 2004 the Kettle River watershed planning group voted to discontinue their work at the end of Phase 2, and did not move forward with Phase 3 (Planning) or Phase 4 (Implementation) plus the Ferry County Commissioners refused to support the next steps. As a result of the planning groups inability to reach consensus the Department of Ecology does not plan to conduct additional studies or propose instream flow rules in the near future. The bottom line: existing water rights

can not change and no new water rights will be issued within Ferry County.

“O Canada, we stand on guard for thee” as the Canadian national anthem goes...guess we have to leave protecting the Kettle River watershed to our good neighbors up north. Just so happens Canadian residents of the Kettle River watershed will be able to shape the future thanks to the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary. Public involvement over the next two years includes the strategy of information sessions, surveys, workshops and community mapping events. The goal of the so called ‘Kettle River Watershed Management Plan’ is to help guide upcoming decisions by the Regional District and the Province of B.C. Let's hope a realistic management plan, when completed, will provide a strategic vision for the Kettle River watershed. Specific actions must be carried out by the various Canadian government agencies and stakeholders who have a role in the management of water and land resources within the watershed. This includes the responsible actions of individual citizens. I'm feeling a little jealous...how about you?

So what can we do to get informed and provide input the Kettle River Watershed Management Plan? For starters check-out their website at: www.kettleriver.ca When you're up to speed on the project you can submit comments at: www.kettleriver.ca/2012/06/survey-hopes

In the upcoming months the management team from Grand Forks plans a series of informational meetings in Ferry and Okanogan counties. KRCG will keep you updated on these meetings via email Action Alerts and newsletters. No country can own a river...we're just borrowing it from future generations.

Now is the time to act.



Kettle Range Conservation Group
 POB 150
 Republic, WA 99166

PRESORTED STD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 REPUBLIC WA
 PERMIT 42

Return Service Requested

35 Years Protecting Northeast Washington Forests



Please support community collaboration work. Your annual membership supports protecting clean water, wildlife, and 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 use the secure PayPal form on our website or fill out this form, include your check and mail 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 receive our newsletter. Email or USPS is OK.

Name: _____

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

Phone: _____

Email: _____ I prefer E-mail newsletter only
 (We'll never share or sell 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: _____