

# THE WILDEST PLACE

Newsletter of the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation

SUMMER 2017



SELWAY BITTERROOT  
FRANK CHURCH  
FOUNDATION



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FRANK CHURCH  
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## Summer 2017

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## From the BOARD CHAIR

As I write this note, we are engaged in the height of another ambitious summer season. Months of planning, fundraising, recruiting, interviewing, organizing equipment and planning projects/logistics with our Forest Service Wilderness Managers has all paid off.

As you well know, there is no shortage of work to be done on the ground to help provide access to our iconic wildernesses, the Selway-Bitterroot and the Frank Church River of No Return. We take great pride in our primary mission of "boots on the ground" work with our Forest Service partners. This often invokes images of heavy hiking boots on rugged trails laboring to crosscut wind thrown trees and move rocks and dirt to repair damaged trails.

Boots on the ground, yes, but we really are much more than that. We are also tennis shoes, hiking shoes, cowboy boots, sandals, and even street shoes on dozens of people doing all kinds of wilderness stewardship work. We have couples and families who travel great distances to volunteer as cabin hosts. We have Historic Ranger Station hosts, and even crews that work at lookouts. Some of our volunteers may not be clearing trees and building trail, but they are providing an essential service. Our volunteers collect data on human and social impacts, they monitor wilderness conditions, and provide documentation to the Forest Service. They cook and prepare healthy meals in the field, they drive shuttle vehicles, horse trailers, and ferry supplies. They provide housing to field crews when they come out of the backcountry. In the off season, our volunteers do a tremendous amount of work for our fundraisers and special events around Idaho and Montana.

We look forward to your support so that our volunteers can continue to put all kinds of boots on the ground to provide Wilderness stewardship with our Forest Service partners in so many different capacities. Throughout this newsletter, and on our dynamic web page, I invite you to explore the many opportunities to help our organization put "boots on the ground" and street shoes to work! Thank you.

Ed Krumpe  
*Board Chairman*



## From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I sure hope you've been out hiking or riding in our wildest places or, even better, working on one of the SBFC wilderness stewardship projects! This season we have 8 volunteer projects and 4 partnership projects on the schedule. These dedicated groups include the National Smokejumper Association, Sierra Club and two groups of high school students from Dallas County, Iowa (code name: the IDAWA groups). We have a few late-summer volunteer spots open, so come on out and join us! Register by going to: <http://www.selwaybitterroot.org/getinvolved/>



This season we have 10 highly-qualified Wilderness Ranger AmeriCorps Interns from 4 west coast and 6 east coast colleges. Our interns are pursuing degrees in fields that include resource management, conservation, recreation, forestry, biology and journalism. We also hired a terrific staff of 6 wilderness stewards and liaisons, all seasoned wilderness professionals with great initiative, energy and commitment. It has been absolutely inspiring to see the dedication these young men and women have shown for wilderness! Please check our website for new intern and staff blogs plus photos. <http://www.selwaybitterroot.org/>

This past month I joined our crews on two hitches; the St. Mary's Lookout Trail project in the Selway-Bitterroot and the Marble Creek-Idaho Centennial Trail project in the Frank. We cut dozens of good sized trees, cleaned literally hundreds of water drains and reached high to trim away "pack bumps" on many miles of trail. We laughed a lot, ate well and made new friends. We cleared these wilderness trails to make it possible for hikers and equestrians to get to and connect with special, remote places. But opening these trails also makes another kind of connection possible. An open trail lets us take a new direction, appreciate new people and experience new ways of seeing. Trails give us a chance for needed renewal through new journeys into our wilderness areas and wildlands.

I'm pleased to announce two new additions to our team; Nancy Feldman, Board Member and Phil Jahn, Board Member. Both Nancy and Phil bring a range of skills and experience in forest and non-profit management. I look forward to working with them. This season we have already accomplished a tremendous amount of wilderness stewardship work, and it's because of the terrific team we have in place. Thanks to all.

Sally Ferguson  
*Executive Director*

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

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The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation  
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# WELCOME

## two new Board Members



### Nancy Feldman and Phil Jahn

Nancy and Phil joined the SBFC Board this spring during the annual meeting in Syringa, Idaho. Both individuals got the opportunity to meet and visit with all the 2017 interns and staff who were in their final days of Wilderness training and onboarding. Nancy and Phil bring new perspectives to the table, and are eager to help move the Foundation to the next level.



#### **NANCY FELDMAN,** Board Member - Boise, ID

Spending her childhood camping monthly with her girl scout troop in Connecticut somehow led Nancy to the University of Idaho to study Wildland Recreation Management. After graduating, a series of jobs landed her in the field of International Logistics which she loved. Her next career shift was to full-time mom status. Her boys are now grown and off pursuing their own careers and dreams. Nancy has spent the past 27 years logging thousands of volunteer hours for several organizations in the Boise community. She is excited to begin serving on the SBFC Board alongside her U of I professor and SBFC Board Chair Ed Krumpe. The work of the SBFC Foundation brings her full circle, back to the field she studied in the early 80s. Nancy lives in Boise with her husband, past SBFC board member, Murray Feldman.

#### **PHIL JAHN,** Board Member – Grangeville, ID

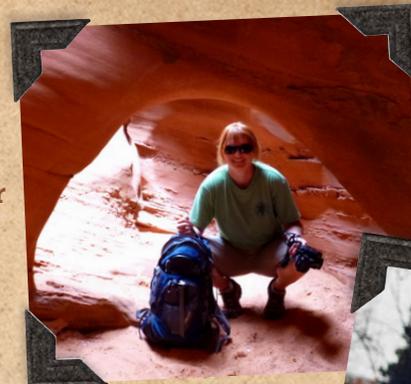
Phil is retired from the Forest Service. He spent 35 years involved in the management of various resource programs, mostly on the Payette and Nez Perce National Forests of central Idaho. His academic background includes degrees in Geography, English, and Soil Science. While attending Valparaiso University, in Indiana, he spent summers working on trail crews, near his childhood home, in what is now the Sky Lakes Wilderness of southern Oregon. He considers his work on trails to be his most fun and fantastic job experience ever. Phil enjoys rafting, woodworking, and Dutch oven cooking. Fly tying and fly-fishing are his special hobbies.

# WELCOME 2017 Wilderness Ranger Interns

Gabe Duff



Riley Hunter



Avery

Sam  
Freestone



Matthew  
Hutchins



Kate Barrett



This year SBFC received over 70 applications from colleges across the nation for ten Wilderness Ranger Intern positions. We are proud to bring on these new interns who are learning new skills, forging new territory, and creating their own personal definition for stewarding two of our nation's Wilderness areas. We are honored to have such a fine and dedicated group of young men and women who are passionate about the work we do and the wilderness conservation work they will do moving forward.

## Kate Barrett

**Home State:** Colorado

**University:** University of Montana

**Graduation Date:** Spring 2017

**Major:** MFA - Fiction Emphasis

**Interests & Experience:** Kate has her undergrad in writing and visual communications. One of her internships was with Backpacker Magazine where she wrote articles for print and online. She tested gear for online reviews. Last year she completed the John Muir trail in under a month.

## Gabe Duff

**Home State:** North Carolina

**University:** Appalachian State University

**Graduation Date:** December 2017

**Major:** Recreation Management **Minor:** Leadership Studies

**Interests & Experience:** Gabe has participated in several trail work projects through scouting. Most of his trail work involved creating new backcountry trails in New Mexico. Gabe would like to work for the National or State park service.

## Sam Freestone

**Home State:** Iowa

**University:** Iowa State University

**Graduation Date:** May 2019

**Major:** Environmental Science

**Interests & Experience:** Sam was part of the 2013 IDAWA youth volunteer Group in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. During the school year he leads student monitoring groups of campus waterways. Sam hopes to use this experience to broaden his understanding of Wilderness and improve his ability to help others discover their own need for wildness.

## Riley Hunter

**Home State:** Utah

**University:** Utah Valley University

**Graduation Date:** Summer 2017

**Major:** Outdoor Recreation Management

**Interests & Experience:** Riley was born and raised hiking in the mountains and red rocks of southern Utah. Her favorite outdoor activities are backpacking, mountain biking, kayaking, and hiking. She is excited to see how much she can learn and experience from being a Wilderness Ranger Intern in the wilds of Idaho and Montana!

## Matthew Hutchins

**Home State:** Virginia

**University:** Christopher Newport University

**Graduation Date:** May 2018

**Major:** Environmental Biology

**Interests & Experience:** Matthew loves to hike, film, edit and learn about plants. He has explored the east coast and cannot wait for the chance to explore the west side of the country. He is looking forward to getting experience in the Wilderness for an extended period of time learning how to care for the land in a hands-on manner. He has a deep passion for wild places and wants to show others how important they are.



### Avery King

**Home State:** Minnesota  
**University:** University of Idaho **Graduation Date:** May 2019  
**Major:** Ecology and Conservation Biology-Natural Resource Ecology  
**Interests & Experience:** Avery is a former "Semester in the Wild" student at the Taylor Wilderness Research Station, located in the heart of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. She has experience guiding canoe trips in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of Minnesota. A typical trip would last up to six continuous weeks. Avery has also volunteered on restoration projects through the U of I program.

### Steve Mantani

**Home State:** New Jersey  
**University:** Michigan Tech **Graduation Date:** Spring 2018  
**Major:** Master of Forestry  
**Interests & Experience:** Steve's undergraduate work was in economics and after graduation he went into banking. Following a life-changing trip to Yosemite NP, he quit his job and began his journey to the "outdoor" place in his life. He is thrilled to be a Wilderness Ranger Intern because of the opportunity to care for wilderness, meet new people with similar values, and build upon his skills and abilities for a career in natural resources.

### Heather Morris

**Home State:** New Jersey  
**University:** State University of New York **Graduation Date:** Spring 2019  
**Major:** Environmental Science and Forestry  
**Interests & Experience:** Heather is on the woodsmen team at SUNY ESF. Using a crosscut saw is part of her practice routine in preparation for competition. She has also used a buck saw and bow saw. Her main event is underhand chopping. She's had three years of experience working with horses and horseback riding.

### Silas Phillips

**Home State:** Maine  
**University:** University of Montana **Graduation Date:** Spring 2018  
**Major:** Environmental Studies and Anthropology  
**Interests & Experience:** Last summer Silas worked in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness as a Wilderness Intern through the Wilderness Institute at the U of M. His primary task was campsite monitoring and inventory using a Trimble GPS unit and ArcPad software.

### Ethan Sperry

**Home State:** Iowa  
**University:** Luther College **Graduation Date:** December 2017  
**Major:** Environmental Studies  
**Interests & Experience:** Ethan was part of the 201 IDAWA youth volunteer Group in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. On that trip he learned to use a crosscut saw as well as other primitive tools. In the past he has worked with the IA Youth Conservation Corps and led youth groups in Dallas County, Iowa on projects such as trail maintenance and waterway conservation.

## WE ARE HONORED

In June, SBFC was presented with the Outstanding Partnership Award from USFS Region One and the Bitterroot National Forest. Many, many thanks to our dynamic Forest Service partners for your vision, dedication, support and commitment—together we have been able to accomplish so much!



# PAST INTERN JACK ADER

After the SBFCF internship I returned to the University of Idaho to finish my degree in Natural Resource Conservation with a Minor in Wilderness Management. I graduated in the spring of 2014 and immediately went to work as a wilderness ranger in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area where I spent the summer patrolling the Sawtooth wilderness cleaning up fire rings and burying poop. I next spent a brief time working with the coalition that eventually saw the creation of three new wilderness areas in the Boulder -White Cloud region of Idaho. After that I went to work as a wilderness ranger on the Middle

Fork District of the Salmon-Challis National Forest where I spent a season cutting out trails in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. I finally landed a permanent position as the Wilderness Ranger of the West Fork District on the Bitterroot National Forest where I remain today.

The SBFCF internship was pivotal in helping shape my career path. The skills I was taught and relationships I developed with both land managers, staff, and other interns gave me the boost I needed to bring me to where I am now.

**Thursday, October 19**

**Egyptian Theater – Downtown Boise**

**Doors/drinks/raffle 6:00 pm**

**Show 7:00 pm**

**Tickets: EventBrite.com (beginning Sept 18) ~OR~ at door**

**Payette Brewing Company will be serving up local beer and wine!**

**Watch for more info on Mountainfilm in**

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# Father-Daughter Team TAKES IT TO ST. MARY'S

*SBFC recruits over 100 volunteers each season who devote their vacation time to work for the SBFC Foundation in designated wilderness and nearby wildlands. David and Michelle Huard, with homes in New Mexico, made the long-distance trip to Montana by car. The final destination, St. Mary's Peak trail. The pair spent their vacation time clearing trees, repairing drainage ditches, replacing tread and more. This was David's repeat visit, Michelle's first. They were kind enough to share their experience with us, so we could share it with you.*

**Please tell us a bit about your backgrounds. I know you both currently live in New Mexico, thanks for traveling many miles to get to Montana!**

**David** - I was born in Maine and raised in the inner city of Lowell Massachusetts. In my younger years I worked as a carpenter building homes throughout New England. After that, I enlisted in the Air Force for 20 years then worked briefly (2 years) for Intel Corp as a microprocessor technician. I returned to federal service in 2002 to serve as a Financial/Resource Manager for the AF Chief of Safety. I enjoy hiking, fishing, traveling, and playing golf. I currently reside in New Mexico.

**Michelle** - I relocated to New Mexico from Massachusetts approximately four years ago for work. I'm a Contracting Specialist for the Air Force at Kirtland AFB. I'm currently pursuing my MBA and plan on relocating back to the East coast once I complete my degree and fulfill my current contract with the Government. I enjoy traveling, hiking, reading, and spending time with family and friends. Road-tripping to Montana with my father was an amazing experience and I would do it again in a heartbeat!

**How did you hear/learn about the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation-what or who got you started?**

**David** - I just searched the net for trail/host volunteer programs. I reviewed and compared the objectives of each program, scanned photos, watched testimonials, and decided the SBFC Foundation was the program for me, that's how it all started. I want to continue volunteering for programs that support our National Parks and/or other volunteer agencies.

**Michelle** - My father did the same hitch last year and couldn't stop talking about it! He had nothing but good things to say about the people involved and he really enjoyed the overall experience. He expressed interest in doing it again this year and asked if I'd be interested. Knowing how much he enjoyed it intrigued me, and sharing the experience with my father was an added bonus.

**What is generally the length of time you volunteer for SBFC each year?**

**David** - Only the short 2 ½ day hitches at St Mary's Peak (2), but looking forward to packing in for a week-long hitch next year.

**Michelle** - This was my first volunteer experience and it lasted about two and a half days.

**Describe your first assignment with SBFC. What were you learning for the first time? What effect did it have on you?**

**David** - My first SBFC hitch was St Mary's in 2016, didn't really know what to expect. Our team peeled log treads, installed wood/stone bars, cleaned drainage ditches, cross cut a few trees down and installed a new wilderness sign post. I learned about trail construction and standards, concerning slope, cross slope, tread width, height, trail surface, etc. I didn't realize or appreciate the amount of effort that was involved with building hiking trails. After my first experience I wanted to participate and learn more.

**Michelle** - My first assignment with SBFC was trail work at St. Mary's Peak this July. I learned how to use a cross-cut saw and axe to clear trees from the trail. Shovels were used to repair drainage ditches and create run-offs close to water-bars. Tripping hazards such as roots and stones were removed from the trail and certain areas of the trail were widened to allow more foot traffic. This experience gave me a greater appreciation for how much work is involved in maintaining hiking trails. I can take what I've learned and help improve my local hiking trails.



**Most memorable experience?**

**David** - Wading in the Bitterroot River after a long day of work, instantly refreshing and invigorating.

**Michelle** - The work itself was rewarding and the people I met were wonderful but I will always remember reaching the summit of St. Mary's Peak, giving my Dad a high five and just being in awe by my surroundings. Sharing that experience with my Dad is a moment I'll remember forever.

**What would you tell a person who's considering volunteering?**

**David** - Volunteering is an unforgettable wilderness experience. The work is challenging, camaraderie the best, outstanding hiking, knowledgeable staff and a time of gratitude you'll relish forever. This experience qualifies as a "bucket list" item.

**Michelle** - I'd tell them to do it! It's a rewarding experience that gives you a greater appreciation for some of the things we may take for granted. All outdoor enthusiasts, including the volunteers, benefit from the work that's being done out on the trails. I'd also let them know that if trail work isn't their thing, they can volunteer in a different capacity. Whatever the volunteer's role, our participation helps reach a common goal!

*To David and Michelle,*

*Thanks from all of us at SBFC for your service!*

Selway-Bitterroot Foundation INC  
PO Box 1886  
Boise, ID 83701

2017-2018 Annual Sponsors



## PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF WILDERNESS

*From \$30 to a legacy gift, all contributions make a tangible difference towards the work we do.*

### FIELD WORK

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

### DEVELOP FUTURE LEADERS

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

### WILDERNESS AND PUBLIC LAND EDUCATION

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

### PLEASE INDICATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

\$30    \$60    \$120    \$240    \$600    \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

Send gift with this form to:

SBFC Foundation – PO BOX 1886 Boise, ID 83701

Monthly and one-time payment options are available on our website: [selwaybitterroot.org/take-action/](http://selwaybitterroot.org/take-action/)

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