



SELWAY BITTERROOT  
FRANK CHURCH  
FOUNDATION

# THE WILDEST PLACE

Newsletter of the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation

SPRING 2018





SELWAY BITTERROOT  
FRANK CHURCH  
FOUNDATION

## Spring 2018

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*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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## From the BOARD CHAIR

A gentleman recently asked me, point blank, "But what is the most important thing your Foundation does?" A dizzying list spun through my head; provide public access, recruit volunteers, partner with the Forest Service to provide Wilderness integrity monitoring, raise money to support interns and volunteers, staff lookouts and historic cabins, inventory campsites, train primitive skills, and a lot of cool stuff!



But the person had emphasized "most" important thing, and that made me think back to our beginnings.

One of our fundamental objectives was to create an organization that could provide a career path for young people who were interested in wilderness and conservation. Shrinking federal budgets meant fewer students could find seasonal employment in wilderness and backcountry positions. We decided the SBFC could provide interns with a full summer of on-the-job training while working in the back country. I told this gentleman about last summer's intern, Avery King. Avery grew up backpacking in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, she took a full semester of courses in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness through the University of Idaho's "Semester in the Wild" program, she spent last summer as a SBFC Wilderness Ranger Intern, and this summer she'll pursue a wilderness research internship with the University of Idaho College of Natural Resources. With four years of college and several months of field work behind her, Avery will launch into graduate school studies next fall. SBFC has played an important role in providing invaluable field training to compliment her academic training. The combination promises to be a perfect recipe for a career in natural resource management.

That, I said, is one of the most important things that we do!

Ed Krumpe  
*Board Chairman*

## From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am excited about our 2018 season. Thanks to our Forest Service partners, we are offering 7 terrific, multiple-day volunteer projects in the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness areas. We also have 7 partnership volunteer projects scheduled, with groups that include the National Smoke Jumpers Association, Sierra Club, American Hiking Society and youth groups from the midwest and east coast. Our partners, the Back Country Horsemen of Idaho and Montana, will again be providing us with needed pack support on several projects.



We have a new cohort of 8 enthusiastic Wilderness Ranger Interns from colleges across the country who will serve on the Nez Perce-Clearwater, Bitterroot and Salmon-Challis National Forests. We have hired 8 skilled, professional staff members who will help train and lead our Wilderness Interns and volunteer projects and work closely with our Forest Service partners. Four of our staff worked for us in 2017 and we are happy to welcome them back! Staff will officially start in May but have already started training. In March, SBFC sent staff to the Nine Mile Rigging Training, where they gained skills in cutting and moving dead-standing and dangerous trees.

Thanks to our committed partners and new partnerships we have increased the number of 2018 wilderness projects. But there is still so much that needs to be done and here are ways you can make a difference:

**Volunteer**—come on out and join us on one of our projects! We make it easy and rewarding and you'll be surprised how much fun running a crosscut saw is! Join us for National Trails Day—a fun, one day project on the Bitterroot National Forest followed by a BBQ.

**Donate**—it's not too late to sponsor a 2018 Wilderness Ranger Intern or support 2018 wilderness stewardship projects! We have launched a new DONATE page that is easy to navigate: <http://www.selwaybitterroot.org/donate/>

**Give the gift of SBFC membership**—become part of our SBFC community and support our wilderness legacy!

Sally Ferguson  
*Executive Director*

# WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK TO OUR SEASONAL STAFF!

We are pleased to announce that four 2017 Seasonal Staff members will be returning to SBFC this summer. All that training and experience will transfer to our 2018 programs which will just make what we do this year even more streamlined and productive. Our three new staff members; Josh Page, William Thelen, and Natalie Stockman also have rich backgrounds of experience and expertise and they are welcome additions to the team. We are looking forward to a strong season!



**WILLIAM MERRITT, POWELL TRAILS LIAISON**

Originally hailing from Maryland, outside Washington D.C, Will grew up playing in the woods and developed a natural love for the outdoors. Will graduated from Ursinus College, outside Philadelphia, with a degree in Biology. Looking for a change, he moved to Missoula, MT in 2013 and joined the Montana Conservation Corps. Since then, he has bounced around the west, working for a variety of conservation non-profits doing trail work and patrolling wilderness. In 2017 he joined SBFC and has since made Missoula his home. Will is back for a second season with SBFC!



**JOEY HUDEK, MOOSE CREEK TRAILS LIAISON**

Joey grew up in the suburbs of Chicago where he spent his summers camping in Wisconsin. In 2011, after spending a semester in Antarctica doing field research, he graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a BS in earth and environmental sciences. Joey's first experience with western landscapes was with the MCC in 2012. Since then, he has worked for conservation corps in Arizona and Colorado and spent two more seasons with the MCC. He is excited to continue to protect these wild landscapes as he joins us for a second season with SBFC!



**JOSH PAGE, FRANK CHURCH LEAD WILDERNESS STEWARD**

Josh grew up in a small farming community in rural Michigan. Hunting, fishing, and camping as a kid introduced him to the outdoors. He fell in love with the west on a summer trip to Rocky Mountain National Park. In 2015, Josh joined the California Conservation Corps, where he first learned trail maintenance. In 2016 and 2017, he worked for Montana Conservation Corps in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, where he co-lead crews, built a pack bridge and loved making crosscuts sing. Josh is excited to explore as much of the Frank as the season will allow!



**CONNOR ADAMS, NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER TRAIL CREW LEADER**

Connor grew up in New York State and cut his backcountry teeth in the Adirondack Mountains. After some time living abroad and a northbound thru hike of the Appalachian Trail, he finally made the long overdue move out west to the Rockies. After serving with the MCC for two seasons in the Bob Marshall Wilderness and SBFC last season, he is excited to continue to share his passion for wildlands and traditional tools with like-minded folks in the Selway. When not living out of a pack in the woods, Connor enjoys playing music, cycling, snowboarding, and cooking—in the front and backcountry.



**TREVOR FERRO, NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER TRAIL CREW MEMBER**

Trevor grew up in Evanston, Illinois where he developed a passion for the outdoors as a Boy Scout. Before working for the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation last summer, he spent two summers guiding canoe trips in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota for the Boy Scouts and a third summer on a Conservation Corps internship through the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation. These experiences helped shape his love for wilderness areas and working for non-profits. Trevor is back for a second season in the Selway with SBFC!



**WILLIAM THELEN, NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER TRAIL CREW MEMBER**

Growing up just north of San Francisco gave Will easy access to adventures among the craggy beaches of Point Reyes National Seashore and the great redwoods of Muir Woods National Monument. When he moved to Montana's Bitterroot Valley as a teenager, Will discovered the rugged terrain of the Selway-Bitterroot, Rattlesnake, and Bob Marshall Wildernesses. Will graduated from the University of Montana in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and a minor in Wilderness Studies. In his spare time Will loves to travel as well as continue to hike, float, board, and bike around his home in Missoula.



**NATALIE STOCKMAN, NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER TRAIL CREW MEMBER**

Natalie grew up in Burlington, Vermont on the shores of Lake Champlain. She moved to Missoula in 2014 to study Environmental Studies, Natural Resource Conservation and Arabic at the University of Montana. For the last year, she worked as the program coordinator for the Watershed Education Network helping students learn more about their local watersheds through field-based education. Outside of work, Natalie enjoys laughing, looking at rocks and plants, drawing and backpacking. Natalie is excited to bring her experience and enthusiasm to her work with SBFC this season!





### JIM HEIDELBERGER

Jim was born and raised in Detroit. He has been living in northern Idaho for the past 40 years. Jim's first volunteer project with SBFC was eight years ago. Since then he has been on over a dozen projects with the foundation and was the SBFC 2016 Volunteer of the Year. Jim has worked in public schools in Idaho and Washington as a school psychologist or special education director for the past 37 years. Now semi-retired, Jim spends his free time reading, gardening and exercising.

# WELCOME *new* BOARD MEMBERS

### DUSTIN AHERIN

Dustin grew up in North Central Idaho, where his family farmed and logged. His earliest memories are of fishing the tributaries of the Main Salmon with his grandfather and spending time in the Selway-Bitterroot and the Frank Church Wilderness areas.

He began guiding on the Lower Salmon River as a college student and quickly realized he would never be suited for a "real job"! He has owned Idaho River Adventures since 2011 and is the Board President of the Middle Fork Outfitters Association.

Dustin is excited to be involved with SBFC. He believes that public/private partnerships like the SBFC-US Forest Service partnership are needed to help manage and keep public our most prized Idaho treasures.



## AND THE WINNER IS...

Once again we celebrated St. Patty's day by pulling the winning Grand Raffle ticket out of the jar. We announced the winner on Facebook only to discover that the trip was not going to the winning ticket holder, Jill Nebeker. Jill had "gifted" her raffle tickets to her employer and his wife as a Christmas present. Turns out Dr. Mark and Lisa Szentes will be making the trip down the mighty Salmon this summer with Row Adventures! Thank you to all those who supported this successful "fun" raiser. A most gracious THANK YOU goes out to our friends at ROW ADVENTURES. Your donation has made a tangible difference in our fundraising efforts for 2018.



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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Tyler Lee – Wilderness Ranger Intern - 2015

*This is the fifth installment of interviews collected from our past interns. Started in 2009, the SBFC Wilderness Ranger Internship Program is our signature program. SBFC provides a high level of training and guidance for university-level students who have coursework in wilderness, environmental studies, or recreation management. Our goal is to mentor and champion our nation's future leaders in Wilderness Stewardship.*

**Tyler Lee – Wilderness Ranger Intern - 2015**

- BS - Environmental & Sustainability, Western State Colorado University, 2016
- Master of Environmental Management – Integrative and Public Land Management, Western State Colorado University, 2019



**What has been your career track thus far?**

After my 2015 season as a Wilderness Ranger Intern with the SBFC, I went to work for the Forest Service as a Wilderness Ranger in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. I patrolled solo on and off trail in the remote backcountry for five days at a time in the Sawtooth Wilderness (217,088 acres) and newly designated Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness (67,998 acres) and White Clouds Wilderness (90,769 acres). During my two seasons in the Sawtooth NRA, I had the opportunity to provide input and recommendations for the Wilderness Management Plan, bring to fruition a non-profit volunteer group called Wilderness Stewards, and oversee early season projects and logistics as Assistant to the Wilderness Manager.

This past January I was sponsored by the American Hiking Society as a Next Generation Trail Leader to travel to Washington D.C. to advocate in favor of legislation that supports trails and wilderness at Hike The Hill. Over the course of a week, I met with Congressmen, Senators, and high-ranking government officials such as the Chief of the Forest Service. One of the meetings that

stood out was with Congressman Mike Simpson of Idaho, where I was able to share my experience as an intern with the SBFC.

Currently, I am a Candidate in the Masters in Environmental Management Program at Western State Colorado University with a focus on studying Integrative and Public Land Management. My thesis project in Colorado is assisting the White River National Forest with implementing an overnight limited use permit system in the Maroon Bells Snowmass Wilderness. The primary focus of this project will be to employ and enforce the inaugural permit system at the heavily used Conundrum Hot Springs. In addition, I will be seasonally employed by the White River National Forest as the Lead Wilderness Ranger overseeing a crew of fourteen trails and wilderness personnel.

**Why did you want to intern with SBFC?**

Before I was an Intern with SBFC, I had worked as an Assistant Crew Leader and Crew Member on AmeriCorps Backcountry Trail Crews. Since I was young, I had wanted to be a Wilderness Ranger and work for the Forest Service. I saw the Wilderness Ranger Internship with the SBFC as an opportunity to leverage my trail skills into a Wilderness Ranger Position.

**What was your “aha moment” as an intern?**

The most moving experience I had as an intern was standing in the Middle Fork of the Salmon River deep within the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness after several days of logging out trails. The river embodied the eternal nature of Wilderness through time, but more importantly, showed that we do not need wild places for nature's sake, we need wilderness for humanity's sake.

**How did the SBFC internship play a role in landing your first job out of college?**

If it were not for SBFC, I would not have had the connections I needed to land a Wilderness Ranger position in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Furthermore, Wilderness Character Monitoring is becoming a necessary skill in the wilderness and recreation management field. The SBFC internship was an excellent opportunity to learn about Wilderness Character Monitoring and research in designated Wilderness.

**How did you use the information you learned while being an intern to help you in your college work and/or your new career?**

One of the critical skill sets that has directly translated towards working with the Forest Service is volunteer management. There is a significant shift in the Forest Service



towards “shared stewardship”, which means Forest Managers need to have outstanding relationships with partners, such as the SBFC. Working for the SBFC, I was able to see how volunteer groups function and how to efficiently coordinate volunteers in the backcountry from a Forest and Partner point of view.

**Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

In five years I would like to see myself in a Wilderness or recreation management position with the US Forest Service. While I do not currently see myself having an “end goal”, I would like to have a position where I can effectuate positive change on a large scale, whether it be through policy or stewardship.



## PAM BOND a multitasker for SBFC, conversation with Sue Webster

In the non-profit world it takes a village of volunteers to get things done. In the Wilderness world getting things done requires a lot of people covering a lot of territory, and for the most part, over a very short span of summer time. Most volunteers are seasonal, but there are those, like Pam Bond, who are eager to help SBFC any time of year.

Pam's original indoctrination with SBFC happened during the summer of 2016. She signed up to help on a volunteer trip that was co-hosted by SBFC and Idaho Trails Association. The week-long project was located on the Marble Creek section of the Idaho Centennial Trail. Pam, along with 10 other volunteers, packers and crew leaders tackled a part of the trail that was riddled with downed trees, slides, and a general lack of maintenance. After the trip she decided to apply her mapping expertise (she holds a masters degree in Geographic Information Science) to help create the project map you can currently find on our website via our volunteer page. The map has been a huge help to potential volunteers and backpackers. Pam also helps sell raffle tickets at the fall SBFC Boise fundraiser – Mountainfilm on Tour. We met over coffee to chat about her perspective on volunteerism, particularly when it comes to Wilderness.



**Describe what you did on the Marble Creek project.** "I'd never been into the Marble Creek area before. The trip was amazing – all along the upper part of Marble Creek there's these magnificent beaver complexes. They are so big you can even see them on aerial imagery. We cleared a bunch of trail. The particular section that we cleared is part of the Idaho Centennial Trail. We started at a place where there had been a large slide/slash pile. The last hitch had left off at that point. Our group blew that pile out in less than a day and then moved on. It was pretty impressive! During the trip I learned how to use crosscut, did brushing and did some tread work. I found I liked to do the brushing, the trail looked so well manicured when I was finished! There were a lot of guys on the trip so they were into the crosscut saw. I was happy to let them do that. The whole group was really good about letting folks do what interested them. We had two packers – they were a great help. We'd all take turns to help with meal prep and clean up."



**Why did you volunteer for this project?** "I would just love to take my whole summer and do trail work. When I talk to people about doing a volunteer trip I talk a little bit about trail work, but the other half is this experience you have with the other volunteers and the crew. You're out there, you're away from all distractions, you have nothing to do besides talk to each other. You learn so much about the other people and you become very close with them. You're out there for a week – 24/7. That has a lasting effect for me. You form these bonds with these other people who are working right beside you. There's lots of camaraderie – they are all good people."

**What keeps you coming back to the mountains?** "For Boiseans, it's so easy to get out there. It's an easy way to take a break from a busy life. When I leave for the mountains, I leave everything else in Boise. A lot of times I'll go with friends, we can engage with each other, there's no distractions. It's an opportunity to keep those relationships real. I also like the challenge of completing something or getting to the top of something."

**What would you tell a person who's considering volunteering?** "Anybody can volunteer. I've had friends voice concern about #1 being a gal, #2 being older. Really there's so many components to trail work that anybody can be useful whether it's doing some tread work or crosscut work. If you're out there for a day or a week there's always a place to be useful. And then also, thinking about the fact that we have to start giving back. The way our political climate is changing, I don't think we're going to get any more money for trail maintenance. It's going to be up to the people who are using the trails to take care of those resources. There's a lot of perks besides helping with the maintenance, there's the comradery, learning new skills, and meeting great people!"

You can check out Pam's map by going to: <http://www.selwaybitterroot.org/getinvolved/> Click on MAP OF PAST AND PRESENT PROJECTS.

PLEASE JOIN US ON ONE OF OUR 2018 VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS! LEARN ABOUT THE FUNDAMENTALS OF WILDERNESS TRAIL WORK WHILE LEARNING HOW TO USE PRIMITIVE TOOLS. EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY OF WILDERNESS WITH WELL-TRAINED LEADERS. ENJOY DELICIOUS AND WELL-PREPARED MEALS. GO TO [WWW.SELWAYBITTERROOT.ORG/VOLUNTEER](http://WWW.SELWAYBITTERROOT.ORG/VOLUNTEER) FOR DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER. THEN PACK YOUR TENT, SLEEPING BAG AND BOOTS AND JOIN US FOR A MEMORABLE AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE.

June 2	NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
June 26-July 1	MIDDLE FORK <b>**wait list**</b>
July 6-9	ST. MARY PEAK
July 25-31	MARBLE CREEK-PART 1 <b>**wait list**</b>
August 22-28	MARBLE CREEK-PART 2 <b>**wait list**</b>
Sept 3-10	HARRINGTON RIDGE
Sept 5-9	STANLEY HOT SPRINGS

## THANKS TO OUR 2017 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Over the course of the year we rely on our helpful friends when we host events and fundraisers, generate mailings, and need assistance with general office and/or computer work. Thanks to those who volunteered in 2017. It takes a community to get things done and we are so grateful for your help and support!

### KEGS 4 KAUSE

THE TAYLOR MARTIN GIBSON BAND- THOMAS PAUL,  
MIKE STURMAK, MIKE CREAMER, CAHILL JONES

THE FRIDAY NIGHT JAM- JASON HOMEY, RENEE HOMEY, MARK STOLPE, JOE GOBLE, LES NEVA

### MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR

- PAM BOND
- LIZ BUCKINGHAM
- DINA GARSHAK
- MADDIE GUMMERMAN
- TRICIA KENNEDY
- JAKE MCCLEAN
- KATIE MCCLEAN
- KATHY STEARNS
- MISTY TAYLOR

### OFFICE PROJECTS

- PAM BOND
- NANCY FELDMAN
- LORNA SNOWDEN

## CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY WITH SBFC



Bass Creek Trail, Stevensville Montana

Saturday, June 2

9am-4:30pm

Register at:  
<http://www.selwaybitterroot.org/national-trails-day>

4:30pm – free BBQ for all volunteers.

Wildwood Brewing – 4018 US93 Stevensville, MT

Join our staff and interns to perform annual and deferred maintenance within the first few miles on the popular Bass Creek trail on the Bitterroot National Forest. We will have a task for everyone! You can choose to brush vegetation back to widen the trail corridor with loppers, clean any leaf litter and rocks from drains with a shovel, use a crosscut or hand saw to clear any downed trees in the trail, or a pick-mattock to redefine the tread. Learn about primitive tools and the fundamentals of trail work while celebrating National Trails Day with SBFC!

Bring your own lunch. Trail rating is "very easy".

2017-2018 Annual Sponsors



## PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF WILDERNESS

### YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS:

- On the ground wilderness stewardship for the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness areas. This includes: wilderness monitoring, trail maintenance, invasive weed treatment, and back country cabin and lookout hosting.
- Authentic wilderness volunteer and learning opportunities for youth and adults.
- The SBFC Wilderness Ranger Internship Program; a premier training program that opens the door to professional wilderness and conservation careers for young men, women, and military veterans.

### 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 secure website: [selwaybitterroot.org/donate](http://selwaybitterroot.org/donate)



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