



SELWAY BITTERROOT
FRANK CHURCH
FOUNDATION

THE WILDEST PLACE

Newsletter of the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation

SUMMER 2018





SELWAY BITTERROOT
FRANK CHURCH
FOUNDATION

Summer 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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COVER PHOTO: Will Merritt/Boulder Creek Nez Perce - Clearwater NF PHOTOGRAPHER: Jess Raty

The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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selwaybitterroot

From the BOARD CHAIR



We live in complicated times. So I'd like to show you an easy and beneficial way to simplify your life just a little bit. Most Americans generously support 5 to 7 causes throughout the year. Americans donate with time, talent, and membership gifts to organizations that are important to them. But often life gets complicated trying to remember the details of each organization and when to renew. Well, here is a simple solution—check out the option to become a sustaining member with SBFC!

With an automated monthly gift, funds are distributed to SBFC on a monthly basis. People who have chosen this option tell me that they feel good about their gift because for the price of a fancy coffee or a movie they can make a dependable monthly contribution that they don't even miss! In addition, this strategy provides a constant stream of usable funds that SBFC can count on. You might think the fee might mean more expense to SBFC, but in reality, the sustaining membership actually saves the Foundation a bit of money as well. It's a win/win for all.

Our Foundation has recently updated the donation portal and it makes it so easy to become a sustaining member. It's simple using these five steps:

GO TO: www.selwaybitterroot.org
CLICK ON: DONATE
CHOOSE: AMOUNT
DESIGNATE: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
CLICK: MONTHLY

If you are reading this note, chances are you are already a member. If you are, please consider migrating your existing membership to a monthly, sustainer membership status next time you renew!

Ed Krumpe
Board Chairman

From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Happy summer! Sure hope you all have been out enjoying our wildest places! Or, even better, volunteering on one of the SBFC wilderness stewardship projects!

As of July 25, SBFC staff and volunteers have completed 8 projects with 6 more in the queued up. Thanks to our volunteer partners the National Smokejumper Association, Dallas County, IA—IDAWA youth groups, American Hiking Association, Sierra Club and funding partners that include Idaho Parks and Recreation, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Cinnabar Foundation, National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, National Forest Foundation, the generosity of our private donors and many others, we are well on the way to exceeding our 2017 volunteer wilderness stewardship accomplishments.

None of this would be possible without the support of our valued Forest Service partners. These dedicated wilderness managers energize and support us every day. I am grateful for their vision and commitment!

I have been on 3 SBFC volunteer projects in the Frank Church River of No Return and Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness areas so far this season. It was a pleasure working with so many fun, hard-working project volunteers, experienced packers, spunky SBFC Wilderness Ranger Interns and skilled SBFC staff. We shared great food, relaxing soaks in hot springs, spectacular views, new friendships and lots of laughs! As I write this, I'm getting ready to head into the Frank for a week-long project to open the lower section of Marble Creek, one of the most remote sections of the Idaho Centennial Trail. Thanks to our Payette National Forest partners, SBFC has officially been designated as the Adopt a Trail lead for the Marble Creek Trail. A sign with the SBFC logo will be installed in August at the Thunder Mountain Trailhead.

Keep watching our website for blog posts, and our Instagram and Facebook pages for updates on our progress as we finish our projects for 2018

Sally Ferguson
Executive Director

MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR



BOISE



**THURS
OCT. 18**



EGYPTIAN



**PRESENTED
BY:**



SELWAY BITTERROOT
FRANK CHURCH
FOUNDATION

**BEVERAGE
HOST:**



- THE CHATTER ABOUT CONVERSATIONS -

What began in January 2016 as a fun experiment with Rediscovered Books/downtown Boise, has morphed into an annual schedule of Outdoor Conversations co-hosted by the Boise bookshop and SBFC. Just recently Jerry Randolph, SBFC Board Vice Chair and long-time McCall resident, launched a similar series in McCall, hosted by The Barn Owl Books & Gifts. Authors, both local and regional, focus on the outdoor experience. They share their personal perspectives, research, and enthusiasm with audiences who are of like mind.

According to Jerry Randolph, "The purpose of these sessions is pretty obvious: we want to encourage awareness of and love for our outdoor environments, provide meaningful and fun exchanges of experiences and ideas, and, of course, continue to educate our community about the mission of the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation."

Boise's first author/speaker was Richard Holm, author of Bound for the Backcountry, a comprehensive history of nearly one hundred of the state's isolated airstrips, detailing the construction and historical events of each. Fast forward two plus years and Richard (now a McCall resident) will be the featured author at Barn Owl in McCall on September 19.

We are pleased to announce our 2018 Fall schedule for Outdoor Conversations in Boise and McCall and hope you will join us.

BOISE OUTDOOR CONVERSATIONS

The Rediscovered Book Shop 7:00-8:30 pm
 September 18 Ray Vizgardas
 October 16 Ana Maria Spagna
 November 20 Carolyn White

MCCALL OUTDOOR CONVERSATIONS

The Barn Owl Books & Gifts 6:30-8:00 pm
 September 25 Richard Holm
 October 23 Dan Noakes-ICT through-hiker
 November 13 Kathy Deinhardt-Hill

Follow us on Facebook: Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation for event reminders and book details!

2018 WILDERNESS RANGER INTERNS



NOLAN - GRAVES PEAK

JAMES MYERS
Nez Perce-Clearwater NF/
Selway-Bitterroot
Appalachian State University
Outdoor Recreation and Criminal
Justice

James grew up on a small cattle farm in Union Grove, NC. He served 5 years in the US Army as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician, and did one 9-month tour in Afghanistan. James looks forward to finishing up his degree while working alongside like-minded people putting in a hard day's work to further the SBFC mission. One of his many goals is to learn as many Wilderness skills/techniques as possible in order to help maintain our natural areas and teach the same skills to SBFC volunteers. He's grateful for the opportunity to give back.

JUSTINE BRIGHT
Bitterroot NF/Selway-Bitterroot
University of Montana
Wildlife Biology

Justine grew up in Oregon. Most of her decisions about life directions have been guided by her need to be outside. Alongside that need is a desire to have some purpose that ideally benefits others, and puts her in a position to learn from them as well. For the past three years at the University she's had the privilege of learning about how to love the land and the life it supports. She's learned this from some incredible humans and inspiring places. Justine is thrilled to spend another season listening and exploring.



ABBY PROPSOM
Nez Perce-Clearwater NF/
Selway-Bitterroot
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Environmental Biology

Abby's hometown is Bloomington, MN. She spent many summers on family road trips mainly going to western US national parks, particularly Rocky Mountain National Park. Last summer Abby was an intern for an environmental science center in Rochester, MN doing research on invasive plant species. Abby is the captain of her college swim and dive team. She is excited for the opportunity to work with SBFC not only to increase her own knowledge and abilities, but to help others experience the power of the Wilderness as well.



BEN SARGIS
Salmon-Challis NF/FCRONR
Boise State University
English and Music/Classical Guitar

Ben's hometown is Boise, ID. He's most at home when he's hiking, backpacking and biking in all his favorite places. He particularly loves long-distance hiking. Ben feels fortunate to live and work in a state that offers incredible Wilderness areas. He's excited to work as a Wilderness Ranger Intern because it gives him the opportunity to see the Frank Church and Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness areas while helping others who come after him have a great Wilderness experience. He is the captain of her college swim and dive team. She is excited for the opportunity to work with SBFC not only to increase her own knowledge and abilities, but to help others experience the power of the Wilderness as well.



JESS RATY
Nez Perce-Clearwater NF/Selway-Bitterroot
University of Montana
Political Science/Resource Conservation and Wilderness Studies

Jess's hometown is Billings, MT. She grew up exploring the Absoraka-Beartooth Wilderness area by backpacking, running, climbing and hiking. This exposure to wilderness has led her to pursue an education in political relations concerning environmental and conservation issues. She's looking forward to broadening her understanding of the Forest Service role and becoming more familiar with Wilderness policy, conservation and the environment's overall well-being.



JUSTINE-TH #93





BEN & ZACH IN THE FRANK



ABBY & JAMES – BOULDER CREEK

NOLAN MCNAMARA
Nez Perce-Clearwater NF/Selway-Bitterroot
Maryville College (TN)
Outdoor Studies & Tourism

Nolan was born and raised in Savannah, GA. Last summer he worked in the state parks and reserves of Delaware controlling invasive species. Nolan hopes to lead a career dedicated to conservation. Nolan is thrilled to be a Wilderness Ranger Intern with SBFC this summer because he gets to continue this purposeful endeavor, and experience a new part of the country.

This year SBFC received applications from college students across the nation, all eager to fill the 8 Wilderness Ranger Intern openings for the 2018 season. This year’s crop of WRI’s 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. With the season in full swing, these interns are fully engaged in backcountry work and have been submitting photos and blogs to our website. You can read about their expectations and experiences plus view their photos by going to:

www.selwaybitterroot.org/blog

A grateful thankyou to those who sponsored our 2018 Wilderness Ranger Interns: Alan Bailey, Art & Carol Troutner, Bill & Jean Moore, Connie Johnson, Craig & Jane Spencer, Erik & Loreca Stauber, Jane Holman, Jim & Janet Pope, Jim & Mindy Wiebush, Penny Keck, Robert Greenhill, Sandra Lilligren, Sheila & Steven Swett, and Zane Smith.



TALITHA MCGUIRE
Bitterroot NF/Selway-Bitterroot
Cornell College
Biology and Religion

Talitha is from Flagstaff, AZ. She is looking forward to spending the summer with SBFC. Talitha anticipates that this internship is going to give her some memorable experiences and an opportunity to learn about wilderness conservation in Idaho, Montana, and the U.S.

ZACH MOSS
Salmon-Challis NF/FCRONR
B.A. Central College, Pella, IA—M.A.
University of Idaho/MOSS
Environmental Science—Natural Resources

Zach was born and raised in Winterset, IA. As a high-schooler Zach came to the SB Wilderness as part of the IDAWA student program. He is currently finishing his Master’s degree. Zach is excited to immerse himself in natural ecosystems, and give back to the SBFC Foundation that got him rolling down the life path that he’s currently on. After this summer he intends to take what he’s learned back to Iowa and fight to educate the public and restore and protect prairie ecosystems and other natural places in Iowa.



TALITHA – ST. MARY LOOKOUT



JESS-LEWIS&CLARK HIST. TRAIL

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Jack Markoski – Wilderness Ranger Intern – 2013

This is the sixth 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.

Jack Markoski – Wilderness Ranger Intern – 2013 BS-Environmental Studies with a concentration in Ecology & Conservation-University of Vermont-May 2014

What has been your career track thus far?

Environmental Stewardship

Why did you want to intern with SBFC?

I looked for an internship to complete my senior capstone project. I wanted to challenge myself to work on the “front lines” of conservation. I was attracted to the Foundation by the organization’s “boots on the ground” philosophy, it allowed me to achieve tangible results and to listen to the stories that people had to tell. As a Wilderness Ranger Intern I got the opportunity to gain perspective on the multiple dimensions of the Wilderness concept and what my professional work might look like.

What was the most poignant experience you had as an intern?

There were truly dozens of experiences I had with SBFC that triggered great shifts in my perspective. I wish I could name them all. In one of my first hitches on the Payette, the Lead Steward and I were making our way off a burned-over peak when we spotted a storm plowing its way through the canyon toward us. Leaping down the trail with Ponderosas leaning and groaning in the wind, I felt an intimate excitement acknowledging my lack of control in the world. It was the first time I recognized that. While recreationalists often seek challenges from the terrain of a wild landscape, the most important challenge is learning to embrace and balance the sense of fear and awe while absorbed in a powerful place-this planet. Nature demands that we interact with wild communities with an acute sense of responsibility and humility.

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

I was hired as a Wilderness Research Technician in northeastern Nevada with the Great Basin Institute – three different Wilderness Areas. My SBFC Wilderness Ranger Intern training and experience prepared me for the requirements of the job. I collected data on campsite impacts in support of the Forest Service’s goals for the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. I was fully qualified to monitor sites, improve trails, record and report the information collected, and grasp the management challenges and history of Wilderness.

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

The lessons I learned as an intern have remained with me to this day and Wilderness remains at the core of my heart. I carry with me an unrelenting appreciation for the hard work of stewardship and the care of the tools necessary to complete that work. I still find it imperative to listen to the stories and perspectives of those who have

TROUT PEAK - 2013



SHELBURNE POND - 2018



experienced protected lands and what it means to them individually. The Foundation instilled in me a great appreciation for neighboring rural communities and how they are affected by conservation, both positively and negatively. And above all, the family I found within the SBFC organization has become my gold standard for all my professional relationships.



Jack Markoski WRI - 2013

What has been your career path post college graduation?

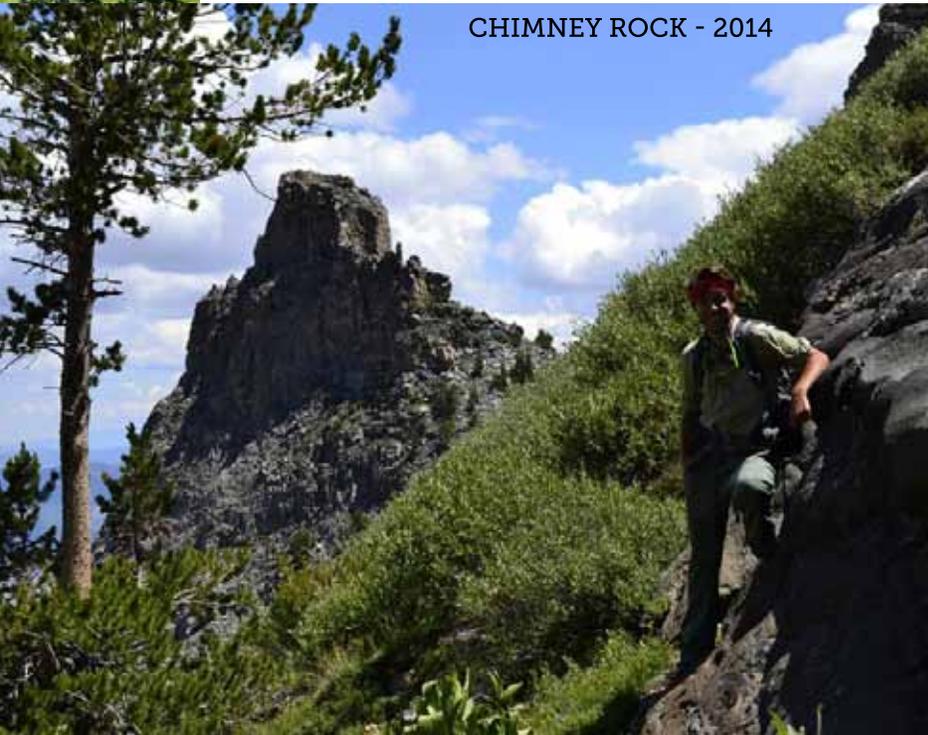
Eager to return to the world that had inspired me, I took a seasonal position in northeastern Nevada as a Wilderness Research Technician in the Ruby Mountain-Jarbridge Ranger District. It was here that my love for wild places blossomed. I viewed Wilderness from new perspectives and across new landscapes. The following year, I hopped from living on an island in the Caribbean and volunteering with the National Parks, to a seasonal field support position in the White Mountain National Forest of New Hampshire with the Appalachian Mountain Club. I circled back to Vermont in late 2015 and began working in its "Northeast Kingdom", a sparsely populated, tri-county region that offers some of the wildest territory in the Green Mountain State. As the Conservation

Assistant with the Northwoods Stewardship Center, I helped implement management goals on state forests and supervised eight crews on US Fish & Wildlife Refuges. Realizing I wanted to expand my professional experience to the protection of biodiverse and critical habitats, I signed an AmeriCorps year-term contract with The Nature Conservancy in Vermont. I was exposed to natural area management, conservation easement monitoring, and how both fit into regional and global contexts. In November of 2017 I was hired by the Nature Conservancy Chapter which is where I'm employed today. The NC organization protects 200,000 acres in Vermont. That doesn't hold a candle to the nearly 4 million acres of the Selway Bitterroot-Frank Church complex, but my experience in Idaho still affects my approach to stewardship and my work with local communities to protect the pieces, patterns, and processes of a "wild" world.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

No matter where I find myself in five years, geographically or professionally, I would hope to have contributed directly to the conservation of more regional corridors, core habitats, and avenues for visitors to experience the sense of wildness and ecological integrity of the land. I would like to feel confident in resilient landscapes where species and the natural communities they make up can move and "express" themselves without losing more pieces of the biological puzzle. This, to me, is the "wild", and my work will always be dedicated to protecting it.

CHIMNEY ROCK - 2014



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- 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 \$ _____

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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



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