

HighlandsNEWS

JOURNAL OF KETTLE RANGE CONSERVATION GROUP

Spring 2013



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.

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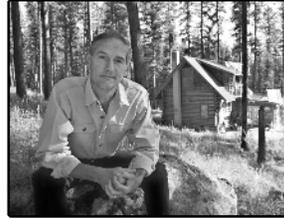
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A NOTE TO YOU - Timothy J. Coleman, Executive Director



This year is Kettle Range Conservation Group's 37th Anniversary of grassroots activism in northeast Washington. A group of local citizens formed KRCG to promote wilderness protection in the Kettle River Range. I wasn't one of them and no one person was THE person who was responsible for KRCG being here. It was, to borrow from Hillary Clinton, "a village" of visionary folk who for god knows what reason decided it was time to form a group. And that's the way things get done.

For 3.7 decades, a bunch of people have tried to get some wilderness protected in the Kettles (and Selkirks and eastern Cascades). I'm here to say we failed, but not for lack of trying. From ski parties to sandwich boards paraded through downtown Spokane, to auctions, actions and letter writing, we've lobbied powerful politicians who have told us "not now." We're still hearing the same thing. What it comes down to is we do not have the political power to overcome our opposition.

I always thought it was the timber industry that was the main obstacle to getting a wilderness bill. But for the last eleven years we've been close allies with many in the timber industry – not counting Boise-Cascade or Hancock (formerly Forest Capital) – and that hasn't changed the outcome. It appears now some ranchers have played an even bigger role.

We'll keep trying even if it takes another 37 years!

On the positive side of the balance sheet, however, we've achieved a lot and in many ways that work has accomplished far more than any wilderness bill ever could have.

In the early 1980's KRCG appealed and litigated the Helen Timber Sale that protected Thirteenmile Roadless Area. You can still see trees that were marked for cutting along the Thirteenmile Trail. The 1988 Colville and Okanogan Forest Plans would have utterly decimated the inventoried roadless areas in the Kettle River Range, Midway Mountains, eastern Cascade and Selkirk Range, but KRCG mounted a counter legal defense strategy that earned us a ton of public condemnation, but we won. And today, National Forest management has fundamentally changed – though we are in no way deluded into believing history won't repeat itself!

We thank attorneys at Earthjustice for defending what is now the Jackknife Roadless Area – which before the Forest Service sawed it off was originally part of Twin Sisters Roadless Area. And we thank Natural Resources Defense Council for the 21" diameter limiting Forest Service cutting of old growth trees. We're proud to have been part in that.

Continued on Page 2

A NOTE TO YOU (*continued*)

Perhaps most importantly, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule of 2001 – often called the Clinton roadless rule – established by the U.S. Forest Service an administrative rule that put inventoried roadless areas off limits to logging and road construction. After a decade of appeals and litigation by timber and mining interests, the Supreme Court ruling last year left the Rule firmly in place. However, in 2011 a bill was introduced in the US. House and cosponsored by Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers that would have opened for logging any roadless area not recommended by the Forest Service for wilderness. Fortunately this bill did not become law, but we are warned that history will repeat itself.

Citizen right to challenge government management of our National Forests provided by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a favorite target of special interests in Congress. But, NEPA is essential to keeping corporations from plundering public lands.

There are special interests who want to privatize our National Forest System (just like Social Security, etc) and there have bills introduced in Congress to do just that. Of course that would make a few corporations a lot of money but it would fundamentally change our relationship to public land in many ways and rob future generations of their inheritance.

Let's look at a comparison of private forest ownership to public ownership. John Hancock, Inc. manages hundreds of thousands of forest acres in northeast Washington but it doesn't have corporate offices there, employs few full-time workers and it restricts access to its lands. Compare that to U.S. Forest Service management of our National Forests, and the Department of Natural Resources management of state lands. Both entities have offices and employ hundreds of workers in our rural communities and pay above average wages. And, public lands are open to the public.

Most of our drinking and irrigation water flows from mountainous regions that are primarily publicly owned. Wars have been and are today fought over water. For over a decade there has been a concerted movement to privatize water by buying up water rights and municipal water companies in the U.S. and around the world.

It takes an active and involved citizenry to insure our public lands are not sold or abused. A founding father of the Constitution, Benjamin Franklin, urged people to volunteer and work together in a spirit of cooperation for the "greater good."

That's what Kettle Range Conservation Group is all about.

HIKES AND TRAIL WORK PARTY EVENTS

Join us for hikes exploring the Columbia Highlands.

Throughout our 37 year history KRCG has sponsored group outings to some of the best and least visited areas of the Okanogan Highlands, Kettle and Selkirk Mountains of northeast Washington. Beginning with the "Last Chance" hikes held in the 1970's and 80's, to winter snowshoe/ski events, to our annual Kettle Range Rendezvous we've held since 2002, KRCG offers a variety of muscle-powered outdoor events to connect citizens to publicly-owned wild forests of northeast Washington.

Hikes are a great way to meet people, get a bit of exercise and SEE the beauty of wild forests. Hikes are free and open to everyone – **but require advance registration.** For more information and to register for hikes visit www.kettlerange.org, or by phone (509) 775-2667, or by email tcoleman@kettlerange.org

Trail Construction and Maintenance Projects

Big Lick Trail: Adopt-a-Trail maintenance of the Big Lick Trail that KRCG adopted in 1992 will continue this spring/summer with reconstruction of worn out trail tread sections. Last year we were fortunate to reopen this trail after seven days of hard work and with the help of the Curlew Job Corps (we couldn't have done it without them!).

Gibraltar Trail: The Colville National Forest will be contracting out construction of the eastern section of this new trail to Quartz Mountain. KRCG will organize work parties to continue constructing the western portion of the trail which is nearing completion.

Please call or email to volunteer to help:
(509)775-2667 or tcoleman@kettlerange.org

Highlands after Work Hikes

May 25 - Fir Mountain Hike - Meet @ 10:30 to 3:30 PM. To get there: take SR 20 west of Republic to Forest Road 31 (across from Sweat Creek Campground) and meet-up at this intersection. Hike is to the top of Fir Mountain. This hike is moderate to difficult.

June 29 - Big Lick Trail Hike - Meet @ 10:30 AM, SR 21 and Aeneas Creek Road – a mile north of Malo. This is ten mile roundtrip. Moderate difficulty.

July 13 & 14 - The 11th Annual Kettle Range Rendezvous at Swan Lake Hikes include Hoodoo Canyon, Kettle Crest -Wapaloosie to Jungle Hill, Clackamas Mt and Thirteenmile Trail. A potluck dinner, barbecue and music will follow hikes (*see the article in this newsletter for more information*).

AN ECONOMIC REASON FOR PROTECTING WILDERNESS by Steve Anthes, President

Kettle Range Conservation Group often refers to studies authored by Headwaters Economics. They're based in Bozeman, Montana and are a fully independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research group. Their mission is to pursue a broad range original and effective research to help improve community development and land management decisions in the West. Headwaters Economics works with a broad spectrum of stake holders with the goal of giving these partners credible information they can use to identify and solve problems. [1] This sounds like an organization we can have confidence in to provide objective scientific data.

A new economic study by Headwaters Economics illustrates that the western United States is outperforming the rest of the country in job creation, personal income, and population growth, and that protected federal lands—such as national parks, monuments, and wilderness—are providing western states with a competitive economic advantage that has helped create more jobs and increase per capita income. The outdoor quality of life has also enabled rural and urban western communities to recruit entrepreneurs and retain talented employees, leading to a diverse and growing economy.

The study, *“West is Best: How Public Lands in the West Create a Competitive Economic Advantage,”* found that, from 1970 to 2010, western non-metro counties with more than 30 percent of their land base in federal protected status increased jobs by 345 percent. As the share of federal lands in protected status goes down, the rate of job growth declines as well. Western non-metro counties with no protected federal land increased jobs by 83 percent.

Protected public lands also provide personal income rewards. A statistical analysis done as part of the new report shows that, for non-metro counties in the West with protected federal lands, for every gain of 10,000 acres of protected public land, per-capita income in that county in 2010 on average was \$436 higher.

“This study shows that entrepreneurs and America’s most talented workers are choosing to live in places where they can enjoy outdoor recreation and a quality of life,” said Ray Rasker, PhD, Executive Director of Headwaters Economics that completed the report. “By highlighting access to national parks, forests, and other public lands,



western communities and companies have created new jobs faster than the rest of the U.S.” [2]

Two of the three tri-counties in northeast Washington were included in the study. Stevens County registered \$779 increase in per capita income (PCI) [2.7% of total PCI] that can be explained by the presence of protected public lands. [Total per capita income: \$ 28,774. Acres of protected lands: 60,007]. Okanogan County had an increase of \$4,086 of per capita income [12% of total PCI] that can be accounted for by the existence of protected public lands. [Total PCI: \$ 35,090. Acres of protected lands: 514,615.] [3] Ferry County was not included in this specific study.

One of the reasons for this positive relationship between income and protected public lands is probably today’s economy. In a growing economy, a premium is placed on the ability of local communities to attract talented workers. The environmental and recreational amenities provided by protected lands, such as Wilderness, serve to attract and retain talented people. “This explanation would be consistent with the non-metro West’s transition into a service-based economy, which constitutes 61 percent of all employment. It is also consistent with the rapid growth of non-labor income in the rural West, including retirement and investment income, which has comprised 65 percent of net total personal income growth in the last decade.” [4]

Whether our local economy is stimulated, depressed, or remains for the most part unchanged, Wilderness will provide the public an opportunity to experience free-willed wild nature on our own terms, without mechanical devices and in perpetuity. The economic benefits of logging or mining natural resources from proposed Wilderness areas, by contrast, are short term. Wilderness has the prospect to provide much more value in the long term. Wilderness honors the Creator and is a refuge for plants, animals and traditional means of travel and subsistence.

I believe the intangible resources, like peace and quiet, provided by Wilderness are invaluable and essential to human existence. Even though the value placed on these qualities varies by person, it’s still essential we have opportunities to experience Wilderness, whether we choose to take advantage of that opportunity or not. This may mean sacrificing short-term economic values for the priceless encounters Wilderness will provide for us and for future generations.

1. headwaterseconomics.org/about
2. headwaterseconomics.org/land/west-is-best-value-of-public-lands-release
3. headwaterseconomics.org/land/protected-public-lands-increase-per-capita-income
4. headwaterseconomics.org/land/protected-public-lands-

THE BIG BAD WOLF: MYTH VS. REALITY by Steve Anthes, President, KRCG Board of Directors

Ever wonder where we get our impressions of wolves? From stories such as Little Red Riding Hood: "Goodness, what a big mouth you have," ("The better to eat you with!"), to Hollywood's the Wolfman or a Werewolf; to books like "Call of the Wild" or "The Jungle Book" our collectively cultivated impressions add up to define our culture's mythology about wolves. But what are the facts about *Canis lupus* and their interactions with *Homo sapiens*?

Wolves were classified as endangered in Washington under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1973 and under state law in 1980. Currently, wolves in the western two-thirds of Washington remain listed as endangered under federal law; but in areas east of U.S. Highway 97, the state manages wolves under its statewide plan and wolves there have been removed from federal listing. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the lead management authority over wolves where they remain federally listed in the state. In Ferry, Steven's and Okanogan counties the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is the lead agency. [1]

Do wolves kill people?

In the past century, there have been only two incidents in North America, in 2005 and 2010, where wolves allegedly killed a human being. In contrast to deaths caused by other large carnivores like cougars and bears, these are extremely rare occurrences. Domestic dogs kill more people than wolves...31 in 2011. Wolves, by nature, have an innate fear of humans that in rare cases can be overcome when they learn to connect human habitats with prospects of getting food. It's important to note that both of the mentioned fatalities happened near illegal garbage dumps that attract scavenging carnivores. [2]

Do wolves kill cattle?

Since humans began herding animals, over 6000 years ago, they've had to deal with large wild carnivores trying to eat their livestock. In the past 100 years large carnivores have been systematically removed from the landscape in North America. As a result, most modern ranchers have grown accustomed to conducting their business in the relative absence of large predators. In the entire United State in 2011, dogs killed more livestock (21,800) than any other species except

coyotes (116,700). Wolves reportedly killed 8,100 cattle, while felids (cougars and bobcats) killed 18,900 cattle. [3] Respiratory, digestive and calving problems account for 64% of all cattle mortality. Shipping related illness also kills cattle but all those losses are considered the cost of doing business. [4] Yet, myth of the big bad wolf killing large numbers of cattle has directly contributed to an ongoing federal paramilitary assault on millions of native carnivores.

How much does it cost to control wolves?

Killing seven members of a Wedge wolf pack that repeatedly attacked a Northeast Washington rancher's cattle cost about \$76,500, according to preliminary state figures. When the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife was developing its wolf management plan, officials estimated Washington would spend about \$400,000 on wolves annually. The state has spent about \$376,000 on wolf activities in 2011, including culling of the Wedge Pack. [5] True cost is paid in the blood of wolves.

Biologist Jay Mallonee has studied wolves in Montana for over twenty years and states, "Overall, wolves are managed without regard to their top-down influence throughout ecosystems by ignoring other areas of science, such as animal behavior, emotions, intelligence, interactions among life forms, and some basic ecological principles. Although some management may be necessary, hunting wolves remains scientifically unjustified. It is difficult not to conclude that (Montana) bases its wolf management on special interest groups and politics rather than science and reality." [6]



January kill of Forest Service hunter T.B. Bledsaw, Kaibab National Forest, Arizona, circa 1914.

THE BIG BAD WOLF (continued)

Speaking at a wolf seminar sponsored by Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, January 16 in Spokane, Carter Niemeyer a retired wolf specialist with the USFWS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services warned that a wolf pack that is not causing livestock depredations should be left alone because it would guard against other predators who might attack livestock.

Wolves are a keystone species

What does that mean?

“A keystone species is a species having a disproportionately large effect on its environment relative to its abundance. Such species play a critical role in maintaining the structure



of an ecological community, affecting many other organisms in an ecosystem and helping to determine the types and numbers of various other species in the community.” [7] In Yellowstone National Park for example, elk previously experienced significant death rates, primarily in the late winter, due to starvation now confront mortality throughout the year. When an elk is killed by wolves, its carcass is partially eaten by the wolves and then is scavenged to some extent by eight other carnivore species (coyote, bald eagle, golden eagle, grizzly bear, black bear, raven, magpie, and red fox) and less so by up to 20 other species. Field observations indicate the addition of wolf-killed ungulate carrion (deer, elk, moose) throughout the year has created an abundant and dependable food source for other carnivores. [8] Humans are the ultimate keystone species, altering the natural world by killing large numbers of species and modifying ecosystems, thereby contributing to extinction ...impacting evolution itself.

Can ranchers live with wolves?

Win-win solutions have been made available to ranchers. Circumstances that unnecessarily place livestock (and therefore predators) at risk can be avoided by implementing techniques that deter potential attacks. Eliminating opportunities is the first step toward an effective, long-term solution. One of the issues of wolves attacking cattle are the grazing

allotments awarded to local ranchers in the national forest. Let loose in the traditional habitat of wolves, it's only natural that cattle will be killed in the forest. Wolves are predators whose diet consists largely of moose, elk and deer. It's a fact of life that wolves will kill and eat livestock but that doesn't mean that ranchers are powerless to protect their animals. If cattle are raised in a controlled environment such as a ranch or pasture there are a number of proven successful non-lethal strategies to protect livestock from wolf predation and help is available for individual ranchers to adapt these strategies to their own situation. [9] Some of the non-lethal methods include: pens, fencing and fladry (a series of bright (usually red or orange) cloth flags hung at 18-inch intervals along a rope or fence line); tending to sick animals and removing the dead ones; guard dogs; and scare devices such as light and noise. The *Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington* established conditions for compensating ranchers who lose livestock to wolf predation.

An interconnected web

The Suquamish Chief Seattle said, “*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.*” Even though humans receive many benefits from the Earth, our modern lifestyles have created a disconnect from the natural environment and we spend a lot more time indoors the past generations. Some researchers estimate that humans spend up to 90% of their lives indoors. [10] A disconnection from the natural world can have a negative impact on humans because we are missing out on the beneficial effects of nature such as clean air and water, solitude, and healthy exercise. If we are less connected to nature we feel less responsibility to protect it. Only if we find ways of transforming our tendency to reduce the world to extractable resources we can exploit, will we be able to value, and protect the integrity of nature and the interconnectedness of all things. This demands a new way of seeing. It's time to open our eyes and wake up.

1. WA Department of Fish and Wildlife *Wolf Conservation and Management Plan*
2. livingwithwolves.com and dogbite.com
3. *Cattle Death Lose*. 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA
4. *Cattle Death Lose*. 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA
5. November 14, 2012 Repeat of wolf kill unlikely. The Spokesman-Review
6. Mallonee, J. S. 2011. *Hunting wolves in Montana - where are the data?* Nature and Science. 9(9):175-182.
7. Wikipedia.org
8. Wikipedia.org
9. Wilmers, Christopher C. (2004) *The Role of Wolves as a Keystone Species*
10. WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife; *WA Guide to Addressing Wolf-Livestock Conflicts*

KETTLE RANGE RENDEZVOUS: JULY 13-14

For the past 14 years members and friends of the Kettle Range Conservation Group have come together for a group camp-out in the Kettle River Range. Children and adults of all ages have enjoyed the camaraderie of hanging out with old friends and the chance to meet new folks who share something in common: the love of the outdoors and the chance to experience the environment we'd all like to permanently protect as wilderness. This year we're trying something a little different...a change in the group campsite location to the Swan Lake campground in an eastern section of the Colville National Forest.



Last years Rendezvous

At 3,700 feet elevation, Swan Lake is a scenic location and well-suited for canoe and kayak enthusiasts. Four of the five tent sites are walk-in. Douglas firs, tamarack, lodgepole pine, and other conifers offer nice shade. One section stretches along the north shore of Swan Lake so sites have ample shade, views of the water, and, maybe, the resident loons. The parking aprons in this section are terraced but shorter and narrower than those in second section. The second section is above the other section but within easy walking distance of Swan Lake. Sites in this section are more open and sunnier.

Hikes are planned for:

- Thirteen Mile
- Swan Lake Trail,
- Clackamas Mountain
- Kettle Crest National Recreation Trail

Swan Lake is a great place to swim, canoe, kayak, boat (motors are prohibited), hike and bike. Bring all your own camping gear and food. Rainbow trout are stocked in the lake so bring your pole (and license).

There'll be the traditional, yummy pot luck dinner on Saturday night: please bring a dish to share around the campfire. There's a group kitchen area with picnic tables. KRCG Board of Directors is providing and barbecuing hamburgers with all the fixings.

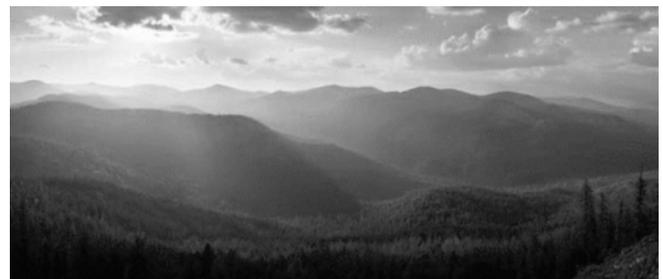
You won't want to miss Sunday breakfast. Returning this year will be Steve's Flying Pancake Breakfast. And back by popular demand Bob and Jane's Omelet Bar.



Swan Lake campground

Directions: From Republic at intersection of State Rts. 20 and 21, take Rt. 21 south and go 6.6 miles to Swan Lake sign. Turn right at the sign onto Scatter Creek Rd (Forest Rt. 53) and go 7.1 miles to the campground. Or you can take the ferry and Rt. 21 north and go about 45 miles to the Swan Lake sign. Turn left at the sign onto Scatter Creek Rd (Forest Rt. 53) and go 7.1 miles to the campground.

Registration is required by contacting Tim at tc Coleman@kettlerange.org or call 775-2667.



“All things share the same breath - the beast, the tree, the man, the air shares its spirit with all the life it supports.” - *Chief Seattle*

**KRCG ANNUAL FUND RAISING AUCTION
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16th**

It's not too early to start thinking about KRCG's once-a-year fundraising auction. This year we're planning a full course dinner and live & silent auction on a Saturday evening November 16.



The auction is also a great time to catch-up with old friends you haven't seen for awhile as well as meet new people you have something in common with: folks who support our programs. Our auctioneers are brushing up on their skills and promise not to tell any bad jokes this year. OK...maybe one or two.

Join us, November 16 at the Fairgrounds Carousel Building. Doors open @ 5:00 PM. See you there!

THANKS AND FAREWELL TO ELLEN

Ellen Picken, our Treasurer on the Kettle Range Conservation Group Board of Directors, retired from her position in March. Ellen remains an enduring supporter of KRCG and ends her term as a member of the Board after many years of dedicated support. The Board of Directors thanks Ellen for her hard work, insights and contributions to KRCG. Good luck Ellen!



HELPING BIRDS THIS SPRING

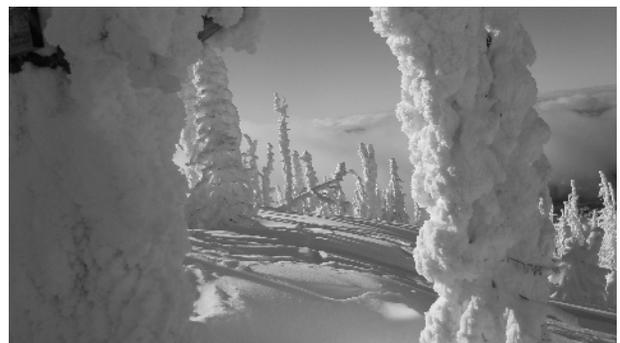
A federal government study reports that over 20 percent of the U.S. population – 48 million people – participates in bird watching. Birders spend about \$36 billion annually in pursuit of their pastime. There are several things you can do this spring to help birds:

- 1) Eliminate pesticides from your yard;
- 2) create a diverse landscape by planting native grasses, flowers, and shrubs that attract birds;
- 3) keep feeders and bird baths clean and change the water regularly to avoid spreading diseases;
- and 4) keep your cat indoors. Indoor cats live an average of 3-7 times longer. Domestic cats kill an estimated 2.4 billion bird deaths each year. Even well-fed cats instinctively kill birds and bells are ineffective in preventing attacks. Fledgling birds often end up on the ground attracting cat attacks. Source: American Bird Conservancy www.abcbirds.org

POETRY CORNER

Winter Dance by Tim Coleman

The Great Rime Forest tilts into the wind,
Here then gone;
Dispassionate and cold:
Airy, bright and wild;
A firm wet kiss.
Visible to invisible
Sublimating, shifting, dancing
Adorned in lace.
In the heat of the dance
A pinball choral cascades
Sheds its sequin dress
A love affair of Sun and goddess.





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37 Years Protecting Northeast Washington Forests



Please support community collaboration work. Your annual membership supports Project Scholarship and our work to protect 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: _____