

Dreams of the Big Wild

2011 Round River Rendezvous in the Bitterroot Wilderness



BY GARLIC

How about a little information about where you are going this summer for the Earth First! Rendezvous, to wet your whistle, as they say? This is the land of breathtaking natural beauty, where you are afraid to look away, burning these images into your nature-starved psyche. When you are back in New York or Columbus or Boston, I want the Bitterroot memories to obliterate skyscrapers and the solitude and peacefulness to drown out the raging traffic. Did you know we have more stars here than in other states? Maybe it just seems that way when the Milky Way is the backdrop of your dreams and you can manage a midnight pee by starlight.

The Northern Rockies-the Wild Rockies- hosts so much large fauna, it's hard to wrap your mind around all the diversity from moose, black bear, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, wolves, and mountain lions and so many more. Yes, mountain lions slinking under the sheer walls of Trapper Peak at a mere 10,157 feet.



The Bitterroot Mountains

The Bitterroot Range is a geological wonderland located on the eastern edge of the Idaho Batholith. Formed over 200 million years ago, as molten granite pushed through the earth's crust sending the mountains high into the air.

A large portion of the granite mass broke off and slid 50 miles to the east creating the Sapphire Range in Montana and leaving the eastern edge of the Bitterroots with a cool 25 degree angle. Then the glacial ice sheets carved through the mountains, leaving the bowl on Trapper Peak, and beautiful long sloping valleys. Like most of Idaho and Montana's wilderness, you have to pinch yourself, it's so majestic.

The headwaters of the Selway and Bitterroot rivers also begin here. The Selway flows for 47 miles through the heart of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. This river is especially unique because it is the only one in the US to receive instant inclusion in both the Wild and Scenic system and the Wilderness Preservation System. It rushes through stands of Western Red Cedar, Doug Fir and Ponderosa Pine joining the Clearwater in north-central Idaho.

With the continued development of the Alberta tar sands, this wilderness now sits on a shipment route for machinery from the Port of Lewiston north. Come stand with us in the Bitterroot and act to stop these mega-loads that are cutting through the Northern Rockies and contributing to the devastation of Alberta's boreal forest. You're welcome to stay, you know, and spend the summer defending this quintessential western experience from the oily hands of resource extraction. Help us keep this dream alive. There are worse things you could be doing with your time... See you in July!

EF! Rendezvous: July 5-12 in Idaho and Montana

For more information and directions to this year's Rendezvous:

EF! Round River Rendezvous

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2011ROUNDRIVERRENDEZVOUS.WORDPRESS.COM

Northern Rockies Earth First!

NREF.WORDPRESS.COM

Northern Rockies Rising Tide

NORTHERNROCKIESRISINGTIDE.WORDPRESS.COM

Or contact NREF! directly at 208-596-3319, nref@rocketmail.com



General Directions:

If you are flying, come into the Spokane, WA, Lewiston, ID, Moscow/Pullman, ID or Missoula, MT. If you are coming from the Idaho side you will head east on US 12. From Missoula you will head west on US 12. Keep an eye on the web sites or contact us. The site will be between Kamiah, ID and Lolo, MT.



Rising Tide activists and locals from Missoula, Montana protesting the shipment of machinery to Alberta

A Bit of Advice About the Wild Rockies...



Come with Respect

We are expecting First Nations and local folks. Be aware that drunken behavior away from the rowdy fire may drive important allies away from the *ronde* and our campaign.

We will be camping and hiking in what is traditional Nez Perce land. The Nez Perce have come out against the Alberta Tar Sands shipments that cut through their land.

They stand in solidarity with the Cree of Fort Chipewyan, Alberta who suffer the direct poisoning of their people, their land and wild game. The Nez Perce recently marched against Exxon/Mobile-Imperial Oil along Route 12 in Idaho.

Prepare for Fun!

Come to the Big Wild Wilderness of Idaho and Western Montana to celebrate vast pristine forests and to resist the largest, most destructive project on the planet.

Bring music with environmental and social justice themes. Bring stories, wild crafting information and wilderness skills. Bring plans and workshops for your campaigns.

You may encounter lynx, grizzly, wolf or cougar, but probably not because they have 3.6million acres of protected wilderness to hide from you. We don't have ticks or poison ivy, but we do get snow in July. In the land of hot springs,

pristine rivers, phantom grizzly, and extensive wilderness, it is best to come prepared. Here are some helpful hints:

The Fun List:

- Hiking Boots (waxed-water-proof)
- Tent (3 season) or Tarp (set up for torrential rains)
- Sleeping bag (holo-fill or down, down dries slower when it gets wet)
- Hat (wool)
- Gloves and Socks (wool)
- Fleece, Wool or Silk clothing
- Rain Gear (plastic, pants and top, gortex is no match for the Bitterroot)
- Water bottle (1 quart)
- Food

- Sleeping pad (to insulate the body from the cold ground)
- Extra set of clothes (to replace wet ones)
- Compass, Maps, Matches/Lighter and Flashlight
- Emergency Blanket
- Good Attitude and Work Ethic

The Not-So-Fun List:

- Cotton clothing ("Cotton Kills!" Bring clothes that are water resistant)
- Converse shoes
- Fascist people and groups
- Whiny, complaining, energy suckers
- No real camping gear

Thanks! See you in July!

Looking Back with NREF! 15 Year Cove Mallard Anniversary

Fifteen years ago the last annual Earth First! Rendezvous in this bioregion was a working rendezvous. Two tripods and a tripod with sitters were set up before the rendezvous started. Dragons, log cabins and a culvert wall transformed the Jack Road, in the Cove Mallard logging area, into a working art gallery. There was a beautiful view from the shutter in the middle of the road.

After 40 days a roving gang of brutal Feds decided that the Cove Mallard Free State (Jack Squat) and 2 other Pacific Northwest free states needed to be toppled. They busted Jack Squat first, then China Left and the 11 month free state of Warner Creek, Oregon.

After the Jack Squat bust we felt obligated to greet the loggers and cops with a new lockdown every Wednesday. At the same time we had a 10 day tripod siege at the Region 1 office of the Forest Service in Missoula, which included a 200 person critical mass and a visit from Winona LaDuke and the Indigo Girls. We also prompted the cops to remove the door handles on the Boise Federal building.

They logged the Jack sale, but never logged the rest of Cove Mallard. Warner Creek was also saved. Yes, we do win sometimes.



Photo overlay of the Jack Squat