



January 15th: One Comment Deadline for Two Draft Plans: (1) *Forest Plan Desired Conditions* and (2) *Wild and Scenic River Eligibility*

By John Gatchell and Bill Hallinan

(1) New Helena-Lewis and Clark Forest Plan -- Desired Future Conditions

The newly combined Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest includes 42 undesignated wild lands and 2 wilderness study areas. What will the new plan keep wild for another 30 years? Will the new plan protect wild lands along the Continental Divide, Big Snowies, Belts or Elkhorns? What about special landscapes like the Badger Two Medicine, Smith River, and Alice Creek?

Our comments in the next two weeks will help decide the question.

This step in the forest plan revision process is to determine the desired future conditions (DFCs), forest wide and by geographic area. **The Desired Future Conditions set forth the desired landscape qualities of the future;** other plan components later direct how to get there. Documents are at the [Forest Plan Revision page](#) where you will find the [DRAFT Desired Conditions document](#) or go to <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/helena/home>, the main Helena Forest Service web site.

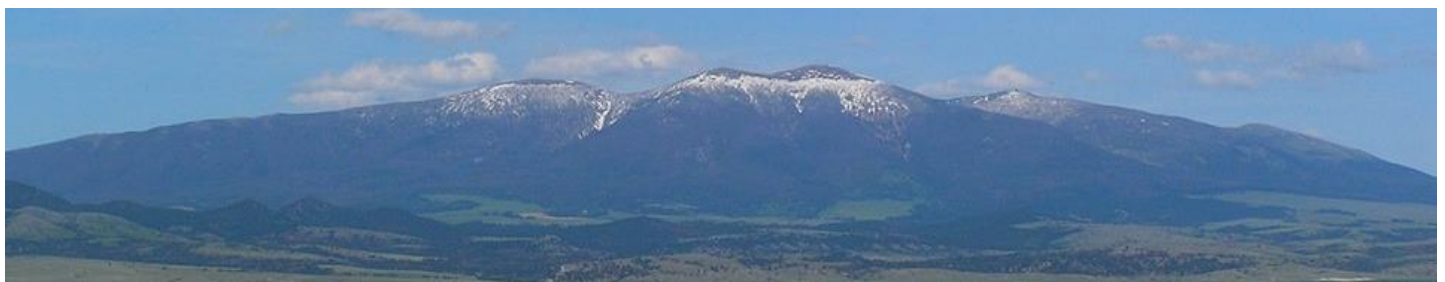
“Desired conditions are descriptions of **specific** social,

economic, and/or ecological characteristics of the plan area, or a portion of the plan area, toward which management of the land and resources should be directed. Desired conditions **must be described in terms that are specific enough to allow progress toward their achievement to be determined**, but not include completion dates.”

Over the years, our thoughtful comments, pictures, and stories made a difference. Facts, documented observations, and personal narrative create compelling arguments. If you can, please take time to read the documents. **Please be as specific as possible in your comments.**

Here are a few talking points. The 2.8 million-acre Helena and Lewis & Clark National Forest has 42 inventoried roadless areas totaling 1,450,000 acres across 10 mountain ranges. That is 50% more wild country than all of Glacier Park! Yet, ENTIRE mountain ranges and forest landscapes lack wilderness: There is **zero wilderness** today in the Little Belts, Big Snowies, Castles, Crazyes, Highwoods and Elkhorns, one in the Big Belts and two on the Continental Divide. **The forest plan must evaluate and make recommendations for future wilderness** in each geographic area. The following wild areas hold high potential for recommended wilderness, quiet backcountry, historic and cultural values.

Continued on page 2



Baldy and Edith (Photo: US Forest Service)



MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

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Scenic view from near the crest of the Big Snowy Mountains in central Montana (Photo: US Forest Service)

ISLAND RANGES. Existing forest plans (1986) fail to value future wilderness across the Island ranges, recommending a portion of one wild area (Edith-Baldy) and small additions to Gates of the Mountains Wilderness. **The Desired Future Condition is a plan that values and conserves large wild tracts with wilderness values throughout the Island Ranges of Montana.** The following six wild areas should be protected as recommended wilderness in the new plan:

- Big Snowies Wilderness Study Area
- Middle Fork Judith Wilderness Study Area
- North Crazy Mountains
- Edith-Baldy and Camas Creek (Big Belts)
- Wild Elkhorns

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE. The 1986 forest plans also fail to value future wilderness and wild lands along the Continental Divide, recommending a portion of one wild area (Electric Peak) along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. **The Desired Future Condition is a plan that fully protects the Continental Divide Trail and its corridor, protecting all CDT wild lands as non-motorized backcountry, with some recommended for future wilderness.** The following wild areas should be fully protected as future wilderness in the new plan:

- Electric Peak (20,000 acres)
- Nevada Mountain (56,000 acres)
- Scapegoat Wilderness Additions (50,000 acres)

SPECIAL LANDSCAPES. The Desired Conditions fully protects unique landscapes that hold special historic and cultural significance. Wilderness, historic and cultural values in the following areas along the Continental Divide should be fully protected as special landscapes:

- Continental Divide Trail Corridor
- Alice Creek National Historic Landscape
- Badger Two Medicine Traditional Cultural Landscape
- Smith River Wild Lands (Tenderfoot-Deep Creek)



Tenderfoot Creek and Environs (Photo: US Forest Service)

FOREST STEWARDSHIP/PARTNERSHIPS. More and more medical research shows that quiet forests and nature provide immense health and wellness benefits to people from all walks of life. The Desired Future Condition must incorporate this science as a foundation to protect natural areas and expand partnerships to put more people to work restoring and caring for forests, trails, streams, and open spaces.



Alice Creek Ranger Station (Photo: US Forest Service)



Crazy Mountains (Photo: Tatjana Miller, 2012 MWA Photo contestant)

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(2) Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility

Did you know in our area there are **40 streams or rivers, 337.0 miles in length**, in the DRAFT Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Study? If you care about permanent protection of streams and rivers, act now! For details, search for “Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility” on the Helena Forest Service web site.

[Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Study \(Draft\)](#)
[Appendix A - Free Flowing Rivers Spreadsheet \(Draft\)](#)
[Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Study Process Paper](#)
[Talking Points Collaborative Mapping Tool](#)

Thank You! Thank You!

By *Bill Hallinan*

As Jim Posewitz says, conservation work is a moving train. It does not stop, it keeps moving down the line. Over the last couple of years, our train came in, delivering travel plans which protected the wild areas in the Wild Divide Chapter area. Thank you for your consistent comments on Lincoln and Helena winter and summer travel plans. You are AWESOME! The latest outcome this summer and fall was the completion of the Divide Travel Plan. Now, the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) and lands surrounding the CDT remain protected for wildlife habitat and quiet recreation. The details of the means, methods, and travel routes for the Helena and Lewis & Clark Forest are decided. Over the years, our attentive comments, pictures, and stories made a difference. Thank you. So keep the stories coming; visit somewhere new or an old favorite. The best part of loving a place is sensing how it changes through a lifetime. On this moving train, you might as well sit by the window.

MWA History

By *Wayne Chamberlin*

Cecil Garland represented the true meaning of grass roots all his life. Grass roots as in rural, boondocks, backwoods, middle of nowhere, rustics, democratic, little people, hometown, and more. Therefore, it is appropriate that great credit goes to Mr. Garland for the first designated Wilderness in the United States that was genuinely grass roots and citizen initiated—The Scapegoat Wilderness. Otherwise colloquially called the “Lincoln Backcountry” the Scapegoat Wilderness comprises 250,000 acres of wild country northwest of Helena that is home to magnificent wildlife and scenery. Thank you, Mr. Garland.

Continued on page 4

To provide comments for both the (1) **Forest Plan Desired Conditions** and (2) **Wild and Scenic River Eligibility**, you may do any of the following:

1. Email your comments to hlcplanrevision@fs.fed.us.
2. Send your comments via postal mail to:
Liz Van Genderen
Helena National Forest
2880 Skyway Dr.
Helena, MT 59602
3. (For Wild And Scenic Rivers only) Leave comments through the Talking Points Collaborative Mapping Tool

Please be as specific as possible. All comments are due by close of business **January 15, 2015.**

And the train is moving again! We are in the midst of the long awaited Forest Planning process. “*All aboard!*”

Revising the Helena and Lewis & Clark National Forest Plan takes place in three phases and extends to summer 2018. Currently, we are in Phase 2, Develop Proposed Action. With public involvement, the process will:

- Identify need-to-change for the current plans.
- Develop the proposed action that addresses potential desired conditions, management objectives, and other plan components based on identified need-to-change.

In each of the disbursed geographic units of the Helena and Lewis & Clark Forest, a wild heart beats. One hears it, sees it, smells it, tastes it, feels it, and knows it at each moment, any hour, all day, every season, year after year. Can a forest even be a forest without an untrammelled heart? Therefore, an essential condition for the Forest Plan must be to preserve this wild core. Let us just call it what it is: Wilderness. **Keep it Wild!**



Cecil Garland was from rural North Carolina. He grew up hunting and fishing in the nearby lands and watched that country slowly being disfigured and diminished by shoddy logging practices. At the age of 18, he left western North Carolina, hard by the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, and joined the U.S. military during World War II, serving in England. After the war, he headed west to the wild country he dreamed of. He soon settled in Lincoln, started a general store with a simple life of storeowner, hunter and angler in his mind. However, that lifestyle did not last. Cecil saw the same forces at work in Montana as he had seen in the Appalachians striving to build roads and cut timber indiscriminately around him and he quickly became determined to stop that. This begins the story of the creation of the Scapegoat Wilderness.



Cecil was a born leader. In 1960, he formed the Lincoln Backcountry Protective Association to counter the Helena National Forest's aggressive logging and roadbuilding plans in the Lincoln backcountry. The predominant thinking of the Forest Service at that time was accommodation of timber harvesting and road building with destructive clearcutting, all this in the era of the post-World War II building boom. Cecil believed that the lands "were about to be destroyed by those people who were supposed to protect it." The Lincoln economy changed with Highway 200 completion—from outfitting to timber harvesting. The agency plans were abhorrent to him—he described proposed roads mapped out as a "wet spaghetti map" and he began the "long, hard fight" while "meeting a lot of wonderful people in the process." Cecil's natural courage (some would probably call it stubbornness, orneriness) led him to say "hell no!" Like other Montana conservationists, he had no experience or training in leadership, organization and building alliances but that did not stop Cecil. Early on, he sought and got the assistance of Montana's Republican Congressman (Eastern District) Jim Battin quickly to stop the Forest Service process. Road building equipment was literally on the ground ready to

roll and gouge new roads in the wilderness. Conservation momentum grew; the first Scapegoat Wilderness legislation was introduced in 1965, supported by then Senators Mansfield and Metcalf. Later Congressman Battin greatly expanded the boundaries and garnered support from Republican Governor Tim Babcock. Cecil's testimony before a congressional hearing was indispensable, as were the words of Tom "Hobnail" Edwards of Ovando. Cecil spoke to congress of his experience below Red Mountain in September with elk bugling into the frosty fall air. He found Wilderness and, recalling his youth in the Appalachians, he was unsettled knowing that some would want to destroy that country as had been done in North Carolina. That night Cecil "made a vow that whatever the cost for whatever reason, I would do all that I could do to keep this country as wild as I had found it." Scapegoat Wilderness legislation passed September 5, 1972.

The hard work and controversies around the legislative and agency battles were hard on Cecil and not long after the triumph of the Scapegoat Wilderness he moved to another place with lots of wild country—the high desert of western Utah. There he met Annette, a local schoolteacher from Bountiful, Utah, married and settled in to the ranching lifestyle. However, other threats to nearby pristine lands arose and Cecil was not going to let that happen. In the late 1970's the MX underground missile proposal came up, a serious threat to the wide-open spaces of western Utah. Cecil decided hell no to that. Once again, he organized, led, fought and eventually won the battle to stop that military scheme.

After that, he got into yet another fight—this time over the push by the Southern Nevada Water Authority to tap aquifers near his ranch land to foster further population growth in Las Vegas. There was the usual cry from development authorities there—jobs. Cecil talked limits to growth and values-his rural ranch life featuring families, livestock, and open spaces versus the "gluttony, glitter, girls and gambling" of Las Vegas. He was a founder of the Great Basin Water Network in the Snake Valley that organized, grew and fought legal battles to protect that most precious resource of the Snake Valley-water. That fight is ongoing now.

Cecil was an officer in the Montana Wilderness Association from 1969 to 1973 (Vice President, President). He hosted an annual MWA meeting in Lincoln and pushed those attending to fight with him for the Scapegoat. He believed in the mission of the MWA. Cecil has a sense of the timelessness of the human need to connect with the quiet world of nature. He lived over 80 years and spoke to me of "all the -isms that come and go and dominate

Continued on page 5

thinking for a while,” but he continued, “Wilderness is tangible and when we set lands aside, be not discouraged—those Wilderness areas may be the thing that survives all the -isms.”

For Montanans enjoying the existence of the Scapegoat Wilderness, thank Mr. Cecil Garland. Cecil was honest, genuine and without pretensions. He completed his life without numerous valuable possessions but he accomplished a great legacy—the Scapegoat Wilderness. Cecil worked to make a difference and leave a part of the earth protected for future generations. In addition, Annette continues those values today fighting for lands as they are in Utah. When he and Annette attended the 40th anniversary celebration of the designation of the Wilderness in Lincoln, he did a flyover of the Scapegoats, seeing it for what he knew would be his last time. Imagine his feelings as he looked down on it all.



Winter Wildlife Tracking Workshop

Location: Montana Wild
12/18/2015 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Come join us to for the 2015/2016 winter tracking workshop with Steve Gehman, from Wild Things Unlimited. Friday evening will be a track-

ing workshop at the Montana Wild building. Saturday there will be fieldwork on snowshoes. To register, go to Eventbrite.com and search for Helena Wildlife Monitoring (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-wildlife-monitoring-workshop-tickets-19722441353?aff=es2>). People are also welcome to call or text Melissa Cain at 503-334-8493, or email cainm@oregonstate.edu. Melissa, an MWA intern, will be organizing tracking workshops as well as making regular visits to tracking transects. If you would like to join her on monitoring trips please contact her.

Winter Walks Kick Off!

Location: Montana Wild Auditorium
January 13, 2016, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Please "save the date" for the Winter Walks Kickoff and Wild Divide annual meeting. We will have a public land presentation, a preview of the On-line Trail Guide, talks on walks, and more fun stuff! It is family friendly so bring kids. We look forward to seeing everyone and having a good time.

St. Cecil's Ten Commandments

Abridged and presented at Cecil's memorial in Callao, Utah, September 6, 2014:

1. Speak truth to power
2. Call bullshit for what it is
Corollary: Keep your sense of humor
3. Think outside the box
4. Trust democracy to work
5. Use resources wisely
6. Assume personal responsibility
7. True friendships never die
8. Embrace life in all its facets, like a diamond
10. Don't give up...do as much as you can for as long as you can. You can make a difference.

Wild Divide Chapter Board

We meet the second Wednesday of every month, except July, at 6:15 PM at the MWA Office, Bluestone House, 80 S Warren.

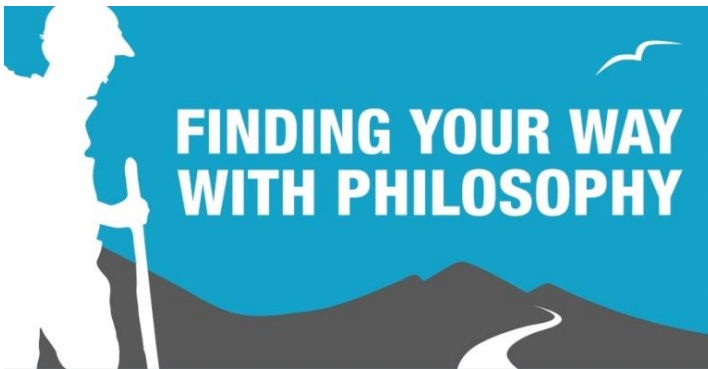
Bill Hallinan, President, wjhallinan@gmail.com
Nathan Jones, Treasurer
Amanda Hagerty (MWA Staff), Secretary
Wayne Chamberlin, Chapter Representative
Wendy Wheeler
Hank Hudson
Patrick J Johnson
Angie Grove
Nick Clarke
Joe Naiman

We are recruiting for a President, Vice-President, and Chapter Representative. Please step up if you are interested. Call Bill Hallinan at 461-9876 if you have questions.

Recently Chapter board members from all seven of the MWA state chapters met in Helena for a daylong training. The training covered leadership, succession planning, grassroots activism and organization, membership, finances and budgeting. MWA is a great organization.

Bonus Newsletter!

Check out the Friends of Scotchman's Peak!
http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/Newsletters/Oct15_FSP_W.pdf



www.merlinmcc.org

Philosophy, Nature Preserves, and Wilderness

By Bill Hallinan

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise. – Aldo Leopold

In October, I was lucky enough to be on the inaugural Philosophy Walk on Mount Helena. The Philosophy Walk was led by Marisa Diaz-Waian, founder and executive director of Merlin, a Helena-based non-profit who aims to help people find their way with philosophy in unique ways. Merlin is headquartered on the Merlin Nature Preserve outside of Helena.

On the walk on Mt. Helena, with the town below and wild land on every horizon, it seemed a perfect spot to talk about philosophy, philosophers, land ethic, and by extension the community of wild lands and town. I do this anyway when I hike -- reflect on where I am. One of the joys of sharing a hike is sharing ones philosophy or story.

What does this have to do with Wilderness? Consider Aldo Leopold, the first president of the Wilderness Society. He lived on a nature preserve. There his work and observations inspired his seminal essay "Land Ethics" which appeared in *Sand County Almanac* in 1949. In it, he defined a new relationship between people and nature and set the stage for the modern conservation movement.

That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics. – Aldo Leopold

The Leopold Foundation (<http://www.aldoleopold.org>) summarizes Aldo's message this way: He understood that ethics direct individuals to cooperate with each other for the mutual benefit of all. One of his philosophical achievements was the idea that this 'community' should be enlarged to include non-human elements such as soils, waters, plants, and animals, "or collectively: the land."

Central to Leopold's philosophy is the assertion to "quit thinking about decent land use as solely an economic problem." While recognizing the influence economics have on decisions, Leopold understood that ultimately, our economic well-being is inseparable from the well-being of our environment. Therefore, he believed it was critical that people have a close personal connection to the land.

We can be ethical only in relation to something we can see, feel, understand, love, or otherwise have faith in. – Aldo Leopold

Living in Montana is all about land ethic. We love where we live. We see its connectedness. On a map often, conservation lands and wild lands share boundaries: Wilderness and game range; conservation lands and rangeland; parks and reservations; urban and wild. To articulate that ethic, to see the whole, is powerful, just as being able to understand and articulate one's own philosophy.

As a professional philosopher, Marisa is passionate about her work as well as conservation. She sees the natural world as a great setting to discuss philosophy and have fun with it. She describes it so:

While each activity and area of service is distinct, a common thread persists across all. That is, a solid belief in the value and relevance of philosophy & its ability to help people live healthier, happier lives. In addition, Merlin staff hold philosophy to be a truly fun and rewarding activity in-and-of-itself. A prime example of an activity that incorporates both of these beliefs is Merlin's philosophy walks (a.k.a. Merlin Meanderings). In the spirit of peripatetic philosophers who maintain(ed) that there is a deep and intuitive connection between walking (in nature) and critical, creative thought, Merlin's philosophy walks are designed to help people kick off their shoes, exercise their body and mind, and reconnect with nature in important and meaningful ways.

All of Merlin's philosophy-based services and activities are uniquely geared to spark & encourage the exchange of ideas, to explore important topics from a variety of perspectives (philosophical and otherwise), to have fun with philosophy, and to help individuals cultivate and apply philosophical thinking to matters of everyday living.

Merlin's areas of specialty and interest include issues and challenges related to: quality of life and happiness, loss, change and grief, death and dying, elder interests, and the environment (nature). Together Marisa and I are planning a couple MWA walks in 2016 where philosophy will be a featured part of the hike. For more information: www.merlinmcc.org, email marisa@merlinmcc.org, phone (406) 204-0064. In-town office located at 119 Reeder's Alley.

City of Helena - Ten Mile Watershed Projects

On this website, <http://www.helenamt.gov/tmcwp.html>, you will find the history of the area and watershed, informative documents, current news about the projects, and helpful links to understand the projects and to comment on them. The project has these nine goals:

- 1) Provide for present and future public safety
- 2) Protect City water delivery infrastructure
- 3) Honor and protect the nature of our inventoried roadless areas
- 4) Provide recommendations for landscape-scale treatment of watershed (LST)
- 5) Protect and improve water quality
- 6) Promote potential for restoration in watershed of a viable fishery and wetlands
- 7) Protect, and reduce potential damage to, ecosystems by major wildfire
- 8) Protect and improve long-term quality of wildlife habitat
- 9) Continue to build and maintain, encourage and nurture the relationships among all agencies and stakeholders involved in the area in order to have ongoing interest and maintenance schedules.

The Ten-Mile South Helena collaborative group was created by the Helena City Commission by Resolution No. 20106 in July, 2014 to provide feedback and recommendations to the Forest Service and other state and Federal agencies in relation to work being proposed in the Ten-mile and South Helena areas south of the city.

In addition, there is another Forest Service project area to the west: the proposed Telegraph Vegetation Project (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=30353>). As the two projects develop, our Chapter will advocate preventing any "cumulative impacts" of the projects to wildlands. Since these two projects are adjacent to one another, neither project should be viewed alone.

The Wild Divide Chapter considers this an important project for many reasons. It is a critical and overdue activity to protect Helena's water supply and to build a fire safe community. It affects two Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs). Neither Helena, nor we hope the IRAs are going away; therefore, it will take insight, knowledge, and an as-a-whole approach to managing these long-term values. As of November 2015, the group has heard from many experts, collected much information, and reviewed maps and options. It is important that the project respect and protect the two IRAs as well as other wildland values and resources in the project area. This will take thoughtfulness,

knowledge, and a big picture approach to managing these long-term values and unique resources. Then, as they say, the hard work begins: communicating the plan to the community. Help them by helping yourself - please take time to learn about the project. Important Project links:

Contacts: <http://www.helenamt.gov/tmcwp/tenmile-collaborative-contacts.html>. **Meeting Notes:** <http://www.helenamt.gov/tmcwp/tenmile-collaborative-meetings.html>. **Related Documents:** <http://www.helenamt.gov/tmcwp/related-documents.html>

Golden!

If you have not read the good news on the recent Audubon Raptor counts, see the articles below. The viewing area lies between the Edith-Baldy and Camas Creek recommended Wilderness areas in the Big Belts.

"It's jaw dropping," Janice Miller, president of Last Chance Audubon Society in Helena, said of the numbers. <http://www.helenamt.gov/tmcwp.html>

2,630 golden eagles counted in Big Belts

From the *Great Fall Tribune*

By Karl Puckett, kpuckett@greatfalltribune.com

8:03 p.m. MST November 6, 2015

<http://www.greatfalltribune.com/story/news/local/2015/11/06/golden-eagles-counted-big-belts/75332630/>

"Over 46 days between Sept. 15 and Nov. 2, field technicians spotted 2,630 golden eagles as they scanned the skies from two mountaintop locations at elevations of 8,300 and 7,200 feet in Helena National Forest northeast of Townsend, according to local and state Audubon Society officials."

Raptor rapture in the Big Belts: Hillside station proving to be perfect site to track migration numbers

From the *Helena Independent Record*

By Marga Lincoln

October 05, 2015 6:00 am

http://helenair.com/news/local/raptor-rapture-in-the-big-belts-hillside-station-proving-to/article_61492a03-10f9-5572-aad4-c51414152225.html

"Montana Audubon Executive Director Steve Hoffman discovered the observation site, and he suspects it might be the best place to count migrating golden eagles in the United States ... During the height of migration last year on Oct. 13, he and companions counted 278 golden eagles in a mere 6 1/2 hours."

Wilderness Book Club

Beginning in January 2016, the Wilderness Book Club is starting up. One of the books will be Fred Swanson's [Where Roads Will Never Reach: Wilderness and Its Visionaries in the Northern Rockies](#). Do you have other books you want to recommend to the club? Please your ideas to Jim Lewis at jlewis940@gmail.com.

Essay Contest

Each year the Chapter sponsors an Essay Contest at the High Schools. Everyone who enters receive a free MWA ridge runner membership; the winner(s), a \$100 gift certificate. Here are 2015 Essay Contest Winner's, Bret Charlton's, thoughts:

"We live in Montana, the big sky state, where nature's best is at our door step. It doesn't matter where, when, or how far we travel nothing will ever beat the gift and beauty of our home state. So let's get out and enjoy what we have. Let's hike, fish, backpack, camp, hunt, ski, bike, and do things that you can only do in Montana. Let's get lost in our own backyard. Let us love where we live."

**Please call, visit, or mail our congressional delegation.
Let them know why public lands and Wilderness are important!**

CONGRESSMAN RYAN ZINKE REPUBLICAN

Washington, DC Office

113 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3211
Fax: (202) 225-5687

[E-Mail](#)

Helena

910 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite B
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: 406-502-1435
Fax: 406-502-1436

SENATOR JON TESTER DEMOCRAT

Washington, DC Office

724 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510-2604
202-224-2644
FAX: 202-224-8594

[E-Mail](#)

Capital One Center

208 N Montana Avenue, Suite 202
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: (406) 449-5401
Fax: (406) 449-5462

SENTATOR STEVE DAINES REPUBLICAN

Washington, DC Office

1 Russell Senate Courtyard
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-2651
FAX: 202-224-9412

[E-Mail](#)

Great Northern Town Center

30 West 14th Street
Suite 206
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: (406) 443-3189

On-Line Trail Guide! So Cool!

Have you ever wanted a site where you can find all the hikes in Montana Wild Areas? MWA has a new web site devoted to trail reports and updates. The goal by the end of the year is to have 200 or more hikes. This is an exciting resource where we will be able to provide trip reports, conditions, pictures, etc. www.hikewildmontana.org.

MWA Ambassadors Wanted

In reviewing our Wild Divide Chapter membership, it is clear we need more members in our outlying communities. If you or someone you know wants to be an MWA community ambassador, please call Bill Hallinan at 461-9876. A MWA community ambassador is someone who might organize a walks kick off in his or her community, sponsor a meeting once or twice a year, and help with a volunteer event, for example, a potluck dinner and presentation. Our chapter wants community ambassadors for Lincoln, Townsend, Boulder, Jefferson City, East Helena, Clancy, Montana City, Elliston, Avon, Wolf Creek, Ovando, and Deer Lodge.



Montana's Wild Rocky Mountain Front (Photo: Emily Stott, 2012 MWA Photo contestant)