

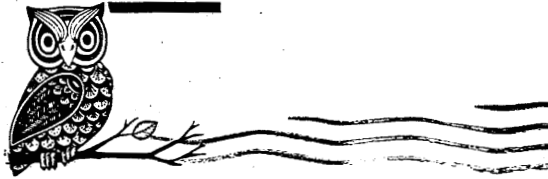


Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

NOVEMBER 1980
Vol. XX, No. 2

NOVEMBER 12: Meeting at the University Golf Course Club House, 515 South Ave. E.
Dave Alt, UM Professor of Geology, will speak on Glacial Lake Missoula.
We look forward to seeing all Mountaineers and guests at 7:30 p.m.
(The Club House is next to Elliot Village housing, just off
South Avenue, opposite its intersection with Hilda.)



THE MOUNTAIN EAR
P. O. BOX 4262
MISSOULA, MT 59801



FIRST CLASS

Dave Line
1135 Whitaker Drive
Missoula, MT 59801

CEDAR LOG LAKES TRIP, OCTOBER 11, 1980

By Virginia Vincent

Again, glorious fall weather, though foliage was not as colorful as two years ago. Thirteen members and guests made the long ride and just-right six miles hike along the Idaho-Montana border southwest of Alberton. Actually, this is the eastern end of the proposed Great Burn Wilderness.

The hike is a scant one-half mile longer than before due to the road being gated at the horse camp. But that is a much better spot to park and turn around, than at the mine road.

A leisurely 1¼ hour jaunt brought us to the overlook above Cedar Log Lake. Since the group was to split here, we lunched in the sun while gazing down at the blue water. Six went to the lake's edge where Bert Pfeiffer and Allison Easterling fished. Four brilliant Cutthroats were landed. The seven hikers dropped down a small trail to Kid Lake on the Idaho side and picked up the main horse trail along the divide. This trail actually stays on less rocky terrain below the crest, but rises to a small pass where one can gaze down the Middle Fork of Indian Creek and across tiny Mud Lake to Admiral Peak.

There were a few flowers still showing color: Indian Paintbrush, Yarrow, Red Heather and a tiny, low Phlox. Probably more thrilling were deer, elk and bobcat tracks. Ravens, hawks, red crossbills and a few rosy finches were observed.

It takes a little over two hours to drive one-way via Alberton and up Fish Creek to Schley Mountain. "Andy" Beals, Helen Cole, John David, Allison Easterling, Arnold Finklin, Barbara Hill, Ilona Hruska, Bill Kerling, Hilda Oaks, Bert and Jean Pfeiffer, Shirley Torgerson, and Virginia Vincent participated.

DID YOU KNOW? There are Friends of the Juniper Forest. Their address is 204 Newell, Walla Walla, WA 99362, and they bring to our attention the fact that BLM is considering different management proposals for this area.

A DESERT WILDERNESS IN NEED OF PROTECTION THE JUNIPER FOREST

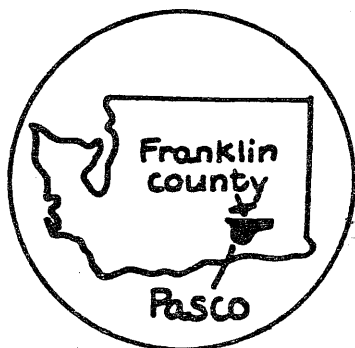
In Southeastern Washington, 13 miles as a hawk flies east of Pasco, is an infrequently visited, little known area of roadless sandhills, sage steppe and western juniper tree groves known as the Juniper Forest. It is one of the few remaining blocks of unaltered steppe vegetation in Washington, and is the most northern stand of western juniper in North America. The Juniper Forest area provides critical habitat for numerous species of wildlife native to the arid environment, including four species rare in Washington: the ferruginous hawk, Ord's kangaroo rat, long-billed curlew and pygmy rabbit. It also shelters the only population of scaled quail found in Washington.

Already this land of active sand dunes and W. Juniper groves has felt the depredation of Off-road Vehicular use, even tho' some has been fenced to preserve a unique ecosystem.

WRITE: R. Burwell
Dist. Manager, ELM
Fed. Bldg.
520 W. Riverside
Spokane, WA 99201.

WHY PRESERVE THIS?

The Juniper Forest has long served as a unique outdoor classroom for ecological studies. Many colleges and universities use this unrivaled desert habitat for field trips and environmental studies. People visit the Juniper Forest in the Spring to see the wildflowers. Hikers and hunters frequent the area in Spring and Autumn. The increasing loss of similar ecosystems in Washington underscores the need to preserve the Juniper Forest.



T R I P S C H E D U L E

- November 7-9,
Fri. -Sun. Early bird skiers' and eagle watchers' trip to Glacier National Park. Drive up Friday after work. Plan to ski up the road to Logan Pass if the snow is there. Cold weather camping. Call Rob Holden at 543-5545.
- November 15, Sat. Spring Gulch hike, easy. Call Eleanor Weidman at 549-7793.
- December 10, Wed. Mountaineers' December meeting, 7:30 p.m., University Golf Course Club House. Ian Lange, UM Professor of Geology, will speak on Mt. St. Helens.
- December 13 or 14,
Sat. or Sun. Wisherd Ridge ski run. Moderate skill and strength at least. Call Bob Benson at 549-1426.
- December 14, Sun. Cross-country ski trip, moderate. Call Randy Washburne for information at 721-3256.
- December 20-21,
Sat.-Sun. Winter solstice weekend at Lochsa Lodge. We hope there will be snow for ski touring or snowshoeing. Call Ilona Hruska at 721-3832 before December 13.
- January 1-4,
Thurs.-Sun. New Year's feast and skiing at the Rocky Mountaineers' cabin on Little St. Joe. Call Myra Bair at 728-3616.
- January 24, Sat. Pack Creek ski tour. Easy-moderate, 8 miles total, beginning at top of Lolo Pass. Call Allison Easterling at 728-5145 by Thursday, January 22.

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RANCHERS--A NEW ENDANGERED SPECIES

There were several times Ralph Fries, refuge manager, looked a little uncomfortable during the public hearing held for the Charlie Russell National Wildlife Refuge on October 28. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the refuge in early September and is holding a series of four hearings to obtain information on the five alternatives. Oral testimony was initially held to five minutes, but only a handful of people were there to testify, and consequently, Terry Ortega, the hearing officer, allowed anyone who desired to elaborate further to do so.

Grazing was by far the issue of the evening for the billion acre refuge located in the heart of cattle country in extreme northeastern Montana. The refuge was set up in 1936 for the management of antelope and sharp-tailed grouse. It was stressed in several testimonies that wildlife should have priority and that "multiple-use" is not a legal option for a wildlife refuge.

Opposing this was the cattle contingency. Winonoma Nunn, who owns a cattle ranch adjacent to the refuge felt that "ranchers were the most endangered species and should be given as much consideration as possible." She stressed that ranchers have proven that they can take care of the grass and the land, and even the deer, feeding them expensive hay during the bad winters. Mrs. Nunn continued that there should be more prairie dog and predator control, a position opposed by a University of Montana wildlife student citing Craig Knowles' research on the CMR on prairie dogs. Craig found that prairie dogs will not use areas where the grass is long, as it obstructs their view of predators. Instead, the "dogs" locate in overgrazed areas where the vegetation has been cropped sufficiently low. Prairie dogs are a symptom, and not a cause, of poor condition on the range.

Mons Tegon, representing the Stockgrowers Association, chided Manager Fries and the refuge for the hullabaloo of a hearing in the first place.

A team of four range conservationists including Bob Ross, co-author of Climax Vegetation of Montana, had spent several months on the refuge in the 1970's and found 92% to be in good to excellent condition! Yet, the FWS proposes a 33% reduction in grazing! (This percentage is not given any justification and is a weak spot in the Draft that both sides have found vulnerable.)

Mons emphasized that a ranch is run to produce animals, not habitat, and that the FWS should get smart and practice this type of ranch management.

The official public comment period will remain open through December 5, 1980. Copies of the Draft Environmental Statement for the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge can be obtained from, and written comments can be sent to:

Erwin W. Steucke, Area Manager
Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Building, Room 3085
316 North 26th Street
Billings, Montana 59101

I strongly urge those interested in the future of the CMR to read the Draft. It might move you to send a comment to Mr. Steucke. And those of you who have ever visited the refuge have no excuse for not contributing input at this last opportunity.

Cheryl Beyer

President.....	Sharon Howe.....	543-4200
Vice-President.....	Jim Ullrich.....	549-2844
Secretary.....	"Andy" Beals.....	542-2357
Treasurer.....	Arnold Finklin.....	543-8705
1st Past President.....	Myra Bair.....	728-3616
MOUNTAIN EAR Staff.....	Myra Bair	
	Paula Mullis.....	549-9551
	Virginia Vincent...	543-8078

The Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana, P. O. Box 4262, Missoula, MT 59806, welcome all persons interested in hiking, camping, ski-touring, snowshoeing, river floating, bicycling, and technical climbing--summer, autumn, winter and spring. Subscription to the MOUNTAIN EAR is by membership:

\$4.00 per year - Single Membership
\$5.00 per year - Family Membership
\$2.00 per volume - Out-of-Town Addresses
8 issues per volume

RATTLESNAKE OVERNIGHT

Columbus Day Weekend in October, thirteen of us convened in the dark to hit the trail at dawn heading in to the new Rattlesnake Wilderness. Ten of the participants who were out for just one night scrambled to the top of Stuart peak after dropping their packs on the ridge overlooking Twin Lakes. The rest of us stayed out three nights and headed on our way to Glacier Lake area.

The one-nighters ended up staying at McKinley Lake and enjoyed the beautiful fall weather. Mosquito peak was the goal of part of that group before coming out Sunday afternoon.

The three of us staying three nights passed Sanders Lake on the way to the McLeod peak area. Sanders Lake was not its usual beautiful self. The water was low and the dam had been cleared of brush and trees. The McLeod area was pretty until it clouded over and started to rain and then SNOW! Coming out from the back country was enhanced by the fun of observing all the various tracks in the fresh snow. We were greeted back to civilization with the news that there were travelers advisories for travel in the mountains. Fall trips can definitely be interesting.

Myra Bair, leader

I M A G I N E . . . George Howe with black bats flying from his belfry, Arnold Panklin as Superman, Clarissa Landry the Mime, Rob Holden a NHL superstar, Laura Fujii, good fairy from the north with chopstick wand, Virginia Vincent a furry witch, Ralph Flockerzi, Mt. St. Helens victim, Sharon How with big nose on head, Paula Mullis the Victorian hostess, Ohio John a vampire, Kim Williams the sassy red lady with shades AND Bill Kerling and Jim Ullrich as themselves at a Rocky Mountaineer Halloween get-together drowning for apples, and casting ballots in a straw vote: For Pres. - Carter 6, Gov. - Schwinden 10, pro "bottle bill - 9, Don Rickels for Pres - 1.

NEW & RENewed MEMBERS - Laura Fujii, Rob Holden, Marti & Susan Keller, Bill Kerling, Joe & Lynne Knotek, Dave Line, Bill Morgan, Mike Stephanick 301 W. Front #111.

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Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing



7

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Clearwater National Forest
Powell Ranger District

Brushy Fork Area

Pack Creek Road "E" Trail

Length: 8 mi. (12.9 km.)

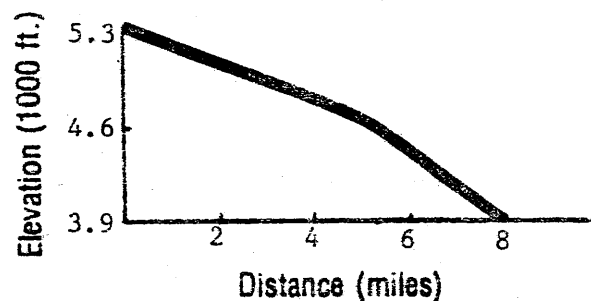
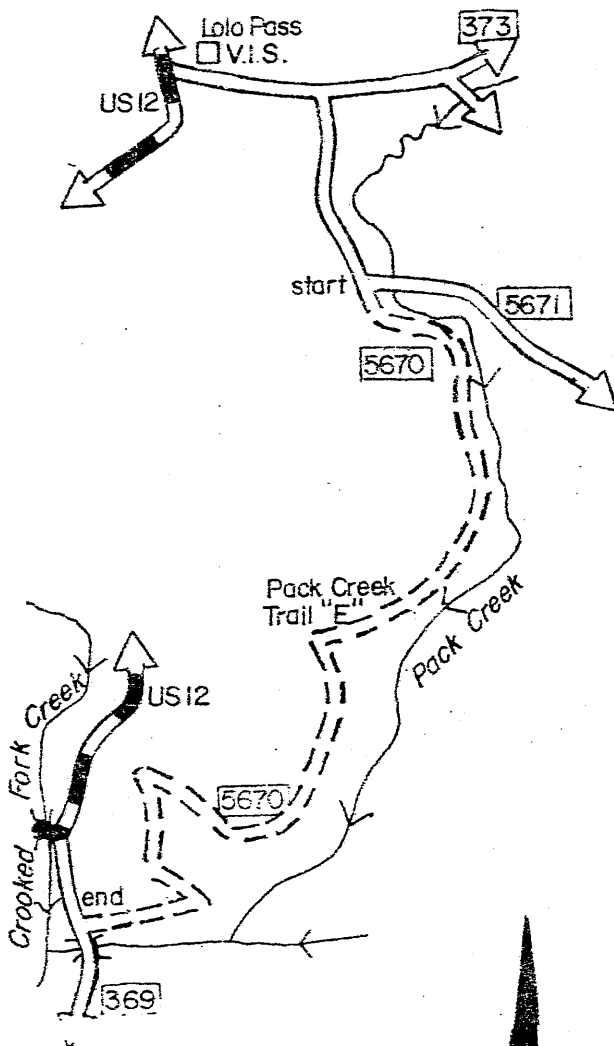
Recommended season:

Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
■ ■ ■ ■ ■			■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Use: Light to Medium

Difficulty: Easy

USGS Map(s): Roundtop



Trail Beginning - 5300 ft. elev.
(1615.4 m.)

At junction of Pack Creek Road
#5678 and Moose Ridge Road #5671.
Trail follows Pack Creek Road.

Trail Ending - 3920 ft. elev.
(1194.8 m.)

At junction of Pack Creek Road
with Beaver Ridge Road #369.
.2 mile from U.S. 12 and Crooked
Fork Bridge.

Access #1

Turn off U.S. 12 at Lolo Pass into Visitor Information Station parking area. Ski down Packer Meadows Road #373 for .1 mile to junction with Pack Creek Road #5670. Follow Pack Creek Road to trailhead, approximately 1.5 miles.

Access #2

Turn off U.S. 12 at the Crooked Fork Bridge onto Beaver Ridge Road #369. Pack Creek Road begins .2 miles from U.S. 12. Parking may be limited if Beaver Ridge Road is not plowed.

Attractions and Considerations

This ski trail follows Pack Creek Road #5670 from Lolo Pass to Beaver Ridge Road #369. The trail descends down the side of Pack Ridge through stands of spruce, fir and tamarack. Lower on the trail, one finds cedar, grand fir and ponderosa pine. Pack Creek follows the upper stretches of the trail. This trail is best skied from Lolo Pass to Beaver Ridge Road, but if so, arrangements should be made to be picked up at the end of the trail. This is an easy trail with a gentle grade from top to bottom. Some exposed trail sections may become icy making stopping difficult. Always ski under control.

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