

NORTH FORK MOUNTAIN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

"...to protect the natural resources that make the North Fork an unparalleled environment for wildlife and people."

Volume XXII

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Number 1

Trouble in Southeastern British Columbia

by Steve Thompson

Areas immediately outside the proposed Waterton Park expansion in the Canadian Flathead have recently been targeted for coalbed methane development and potential open-pit coal mining. Prospects for the park are dim if adjacent lands in this wild, uninhabited valley are developed for industrial energy production. These two announcements appear to be unrelated except as indications of the BC government's renewed province-wide push for energy development. (Existing metallurgical coal mines in the Elk Valley can continue producing for more than 100 years into the future.)

The same Cabin Creek mine was rejected in 1988 by the International Joint Commission, which was established by the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty between the United States and Canada to ensure that downstream waters are not polluted across the border. Although the commission's recommendations were based upon years of analysis and millions of dollars of scientific research, the BC government never formally accepted the report. Instead, the former coal company withdrew the project shortly after the IJC report was issued.

The BC government planned to auction three coalbed methane (CBM) development tenures in the Elk and Flathead valleys on April 28. This plan has been postponed, however, due to strong opposition in Fernie and Montana. City officials, business leaders and conservationists joined forces to raise concerns about impacts of CBM development on water quality and wildlife habitat. CBM development requires pumping vast quantities of wastewater out of coal seams and into nearby streams. CBM development elsewhere also has led to dramatic landscape conversion and adverse wildlife impacts with high densities of new roads and drilling pads.

The Fernie City Council unanimously passed the following resolution: "Be it resolved that the government of British Columbia defer any auction of coalbed methane tenures for the Crowsnest Coalfield until completion of a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of large-scale gas exploration and production on the environment, economy and human community of the Elk Valley." This resolution has since been supported by such diverse Montana groups as the Flathead Basin Commission, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce and the Flathead Coalition, a group first formed in 1975 to fight water pollution from the proposed Cabin Creek mine.

Fernie residents tell me that this resolution, in addition to an earlier Peace Park resolution requesting a socio-economic feasibility study, reflect Fernie's interest in better understanding the changing, diversifying nature of its economy. This economic interest is well captured in this quote from Mayor Randal Macnair: "The values that people are coming to Fernie for are the values of beauty and integrity of the natural environment. We wouldn't want to see anything done that would jeopardize that investment."

The government of British Columbia has recently killed the proposed open-pit coal mines. But it is pushing forward with coalbed methane development in the Flathead headwaters of Glacier National Park.

Please write a letter or e-mail to BC Premier Gordon Campbell. Thank him for the announcement on the Flathead coal mine proposals! But also insist on a comprehensive assessment of the likely economic, community and environmental impacts of various coalbed methane development scenarios, including a no-lease alternative, for the transboundary waters of the Flathead, Wigwam and Kootenai River watersheds. The North Fork Valley and the headwaters of Glacier National Park are not an appropriate place for this type of industrial development!

Hon. Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings, Room 156
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 - CANADA
premier@gov.bc.ca

Steve Thompson is the Glacier Park Manager of the Northern Rockies Regional Office of the National Parks Conservation Association.

(continued on next page)

Trouble in Southeastern British Columbia — What Else Can You Do?

1. Visit the NFPA web site at www.gravel.org for more background information. Be sure to click on the link to the web site for Citizens Concerned about Coalbed Methane of Fernie, B.C. for the rest of the story.
2. Attend the NFPA annual meeting on July 31 to hear David Thomas talk about Coalbed tenures (leases) around Fernie and the Flathead of B.C. Also listen to Erin Sexton give a short slide presentation on the problems of coalbed leasing at the August 7 meeting of the North Fork Improvement Association before the elections.
3. Write polite, cordial letters to these gentlemen below. Or send them copies of what you sent to the Premier of B.C. This problem is not likely to be over soon because coal is in the ground and somebody will always want to make money on it.

Honorable Paul Martin
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0A2

Honorable Bill Graham
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Foreign Affairs Canada
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON, Canada
K1A 0G2

Honorable David Anderson
Minister of the Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudiere
10 Wellington St., 28th Floor
Hull, Quebec, Canada
K1A 0H3

Less useful than a real letter with a postage stamp, but still valuable is a polite email to the Honorable Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada, at pm@pm.gc.ca.

4. Pay your dues to NFPA and join the Flathead Coalition to help fight the pollution of the Flathead drainage by sending \$20 to Dick Kuhl, President, Flathead Coalition, 867 N. Main, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Living with fire in the North Fork

by Mitch Burgard

The fire season of 2003 was the largest fire season in the North Fork since 1910 and the largest within Glacier National Park's boundaries since at least the 1870's. North Fork residents suffered the impacts of smoke, evacuations, the constant din of chainsaws and helicopters, and, possibly worst of all, the unrelenting suspense of waiting over two months to see if snow or fire would win the race to their property. For several landowners, the impacts were even greater and more personal due to the loss of structures and the effects of fire as it crossed their land. Considering the emotional impacts of a forest fire, coupled with the fact that only every third or fourth generation will see such a season, it is no wonder that adjectives like "catastrophic" and "unprecedented" are used to describe events like the summer of 2003.

There is no doubt that, on a personal level, a forest fire and it's after effects can be tragic and disastrous. Ecologically speaking, however, there is vast evidence that the fire season of 2003 was neither unprecedented nor catastrophic. At some level we all know this, but try standing at the edge of someone's smoking foundation and tell them how great fire is and you're likely to get punched in the mouth. I have spoken with several individuals from both pyrophobic and pyrophilic bents that bashfully admitted to literally yelling and cursing at the fires in a moment of unbridled rage. For those that awoke hoarse from the previous evening's primal screams towards the flames, you are not alone.

The periodic human screams that echoed through our North Fork drainages last summer were a pure form of animal expression and a healthy and cathartic release in a moment of extreme duress. Fire may be as necessary and integral to the North Fork ecology as the grizzly bear but only the most hardened and sub-human of us would fail to whimper when the bear's got us by the leg. With each day that passes, however, we will begin to heal. Those who continue to scream in rage may as well be cursing at the sun.

Regardless of what an individual's position is on forest fire, one thing is certain; at some point fire will once again visit every vegetated acre of the North Fork. Almost 75% of the land currently held in private ownership in the North Fork falls within

a fire perimeter from 1910 to 2003. Trying to prevent large fires from ever occurring is the equivalent of the residents of Pompeii trying to cork Vesuvius, you might stall the eruption but it is going to come sooner or later. As an example, the fires of 2003 burned across 260 small fires that had been suppressed in Glacier National Park at some point during the previous 74 years.

As landowners, we are not entirely helpless in the face of these statistics. We cannot stop the fires in the most extreme years (the North Fork River, logging units and roads and even the Continental Divide were not sufficient barriers in 2003) but we can increase the odds of our homes and other values surviving.

Last year a fire mitigation committee was established in the North Fork and all landowners will be receiving a mailing with an application for a free home assessment that may free up some cost share funds for reducing fuels on private property. For those that choose to "go it alone," literature on fire wise construction, landscaping and the creation of defensible space abounds.

The fire survivability of a structure depends more on the construction material of the house and the fuels around the first 30 feet of the building than on anything else. The simple fact that we live on private property makes it likely that moderate intensity fires will be forever excluded from our property. In the absence of fire, it is necessary to thin our properties to some degree beyond 30 feet to mimic a natural disturbance event (an ecologically beneficial 'fire alternative' that will further protect our homes in extreme years).

The politics about how (or if) public lands should be managed to protect our private properties are endless and often shrouded in ulterior motives. No one can dispute, however, the incredible effort and sheer number of resources that went into protecting our homes from wildfire this summer. Regardless of our political stance, as homeowners in the midst of federal lands, we are obligated to protect our private property both for the sake of our interests and the safety of the firefighters. Some may wish to see the fires stalled until a later date, others may wish to see more natural fires for resource benefits, but the more that we do on our own property to prepare for the inevitable, the greater the flexibility federal managers will have in managing future fires. From an ecological standpoint, a community wide effort to create defensible private property in the North Fork means that federal land managers will be able to focus less on landscape scale mechanized fuel treatments and more on restoring fire to its natural role where appropriate.

In the same way that we know that winter will visit us annually we know that fire will again return to the landscape every couple of centuries. This summer should be a great opportunity to do some "spring cleaning" on our property, a time during which most of us are hoping that the wolves, and not us, will be doing most of the primal howling.

Mitch Burgard is a North Fork landowner and Prescribed Fire Specialist for Glacier National Park.

Stand-Replacing Fires Create Important Bird Habitat

by Sally J. Hejl

Bird species are dependent on different vegetation types and ages across the landscape. Absence of fire would mean the loss of early post-fire forests that provide critical bird habitat.

Fire is necessary to create early post-fire forests. No other type of disturbance creates stands of dead trees that are required by fire-dependent species. Richard Hutto (Professor, University of Montana) has studied the importance of stands of dead trees to bird communities. He sampled 38 areas that were burned in the 1988 fires, including the North Fork. Hutto found 87 bird species that used the burns. Over half of these species nested in the burns. When he compared the results from the fires to studies done in many different habitats throughout the northern Rockies, he found that some bird species, such as Black-backed Woodpeckers, nest almost exclusively in early post-fire forests. Other species, such as Mountain Bluebirds and Hairy Woodpeckers, are more abundant in post-fire forests than in other habitat types. Many of these bird species forage on beetle larvae that are unique to fires and nest in the standing dead trees. Indeed, a large proportion of these bird species nest in trees that were already dead before the fires occurred (perhaps dead from an earlier fire). Additional research by Hutto and his students and colleagues indicates that two of the species most clearly associated with post-fire forests (Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers) rarely inhabit burned areas that have been salvaged for logs.

Hutto's research has shown that fires are beneficial to many bird species and necessary for some. Fire is a natural process that is critical for the maintenance of biodiversity in the northern Rocky Mountains.

Sallie J. Hejl is a Resource Education Specialist for the Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center, Glacier National Park.

Forest Plan Revision Underway

Flathead National Forest, along with the Bitterroot and Lolo National Forests have started on a multi-year revision of their Forest Plans. Unfortunately, a preliminary Proposed Action did not call for any recommendation for designated wilderness in the North Fork. Your participation and comments are critical for numerous issues including road management, old growth retention, grizzly bear security, off road vehicle use, weed control, and water quality, as well as critically important wilderness designation and other issues.

Go to the planning team's web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/wmpz/publications> to see the Proposed Action info about comment periods and new planning documents as they become available. To read a copy of the NFPA's comments on the Proposed Action, go to www.gravel.org.

Salvage Logging . . . Why Not?

by Rachel Potter

At our place on Teepee Lake, morels are popping up, loons are calling, young grizzly bears are wandering around, and the drone of logging skidders can be heard from all directions. Seeing thousands of dead trees, a natural response is that we should get some “value” by logging them. While there are situations where salvage logging can be done responsibly, dead snags also contribute great “value” to the ecosystem left right where they are, and salvage logging itself can have wide ranging detrimental impacts.

Salvage logging often contributes to soil compaction and erosion, degrades water quality and fisheries and reduces site productivity. Noxious weed seeds are spread and thrive in disturbed, exposed soil with no shade from snags. Increased sunlight increases soil temperatures, often harming soil microorganisms. Wildlife is disturbed either directly or by removal of nesting or feeding habitat. Regeneration can be damaged directly or from reduced soil productivity and excessive sunlight.

Because snags, and especially large ones, have such high value to wildlife as well as future site productivity after they fall and decay, the NFPA is recommending no more than 50% of snags in each age class be salvaged from any one stand and that no trees greater than 20”dbh or older than 150 years be cut. No salvaging at all should be done in old growth stands.

The need to remove fuels by salvage is heard over and over. Actually, burned snags and downed material pose very little risk of “reburn”. Studies of the fire history in the North Fork showing fire intervals of 70-300 years prove that there is little risk of another fire for at least 70 years.

The NFPA is pleased that the Flathead National Forest’s Robert-Wedge Scoping Document does not call for any salvage in Inventoried Roadless Areas. We are hoping that is carried through to the final stage. There should also be no salvage in riparian areas or the Teepee Lake wetland complex. Cumulative effects of logging on private land in the Teepee Lake area and elsewhere need to be considered.

The NFPA has urged the Forest Service to make every effort to meet Forest Plan Amendment 19 road density and decommissioning standards for grizzly bear security. If they cannot be met due to private land issues, other mitigating steps should be taken for grizzly security including purchase of conservation easements, seasonal road closures, and timing salvage activities appropriately.

*The Robert-Wedge Draft EIS will be available in the end of June, followed by a comment period. You will be able to read it online at www.fs.fed/r1/nepa/nepa.htm. Paper copies and CD’s can be picked up at the Hungry Horse Ranger Station. Copies are available through the mail by contacting Kathy Ramirez, kramirez@fs.fed.us, 208-331-5908. NFPA’s response to the DEIS will be posted when completed at www.gravel.org. For more detail on the salvage issue, see Rachel Potter’s comments on the scoping document at www.gravel.org. **Please write!** Your letters **will** be considered in the final decision process.*

The Flathead National Forest held collaborative meetings in January for planning salvage work on the Robert and Wedge fires. The meetings lasted most of a week and were attended by over 80 citizens with widely varying viewpoints, including NFPA board members John Frederick, Mitch Burgard and Rachel Potter. Significantly, the majority of the groups agreed that no salvage logging should be done in Inventoried Roadless Areas. Other points of agreement tended to be on less controversial issues. None was reached on access management, snag retention, and other more contentious issues. However, participants in many (but not all) groups felt that the process of sitting down and talking in a small setting was highly worthwhile in and of itself.

Fire and Flowers

by Ellen Horowitz

When fire blazes through a forest, images of Smokey Bear posters — charred snags and scorched earth — come to mind. But anyone driving the roads adjacent to the fires last fall discovered splashes of green amidst the black. As if in defiance of the blue jean-wearing bruin, grasses, thimbleberries, cow parsnip, aspens, cottonwoods and willows arose through ashen soil.

According to plant ecologist Peter Stickney, “Up to 70 percent of plant species in some forests are adapted to surviving severe burns.” Those that grow back from root crowns, corms, tubers and underground stems are classified as survivors. Plants sprouting from seeds in the ground, in cones of fire-killed trees or seeds dispersed from unburned areas are colonizers in the process of forest succession.

Bicknell’s geranium and purple dragonhead are flowers with short lives that thrive in the wake of fire. Their seeds may lay dormant for a century or more. In the first or second spring following a fire their seeds germinate and blossoms appear simultaneously in the phenomenon known as mass flowering. Then their seeds return to the ground and remain in the soil until the next time fire returns.

Mass flowering of wild hollyhock, arnica, lupine, spirea, aster and fireweed add to the explosion of color during the early stages of succession. Many other forest flowers — trillium, Solomon’s seal and beargrass — are sending up new foliage as these words are typed across the page. It won’t be long until their blooms grace the landscape.

Trail of the Moose Wilderness

The following letter was sent to The Flathead Chapter of the Montana Wilderness Association on May 25, 2004:

In the early 1980's John Gatchell on behalf of the Flathead Chapter asked the North Fork Preservation Association to draw maps for the proposed North Fork Wilderness. So, Frank Vitale and I drew the original maps.

Through the years, the Preservation Association has worked to give these areas Wilderness Status and often led hikes into the proposed Wilderness.

Winton Weydemeyer was an incredible individual who could do anything - he deserves to have a wilderness to honor him. But the name, Weydemeyer, however it is pronounced, is a stumbling block and I would like to suggest another name.

The North Fork used to have a Kootenai Indian Trail near Trail Creek that went over to the Tobacco Valley in the vicinity of Eureka. Some of the private property near Trail Creek has travois tracks even today. Some of the cave-like overhangs of rock still have red marks left by Indians long ago.

The North Fork has retained at least three Kootenai words: Nasukoin, pronounced slightly differently, means "Chief", so Nasukoin means Chief Mountain. Tuchuck means "thumb" which is a mountain very near the International Border. Another Kootenai word is Ya-kin-i-kak which is the name of the stream that starts up near Mount Thompson Seton, continues for nine miles, goes underground for a mile or so and then goes above ground to become Trail Creek.

Yakinikak is a word not easily remembered, but the meaning of the word certainly is. Yakinikak in the Kootenai language means "trail of the moose." Trail of the Moose Wilderness is a warm and easily remembered name. I would venture to say that the name is unforgettable and would really assist in the designation of the area as wilderness.

I would suggest that the name of the area be changed to "Trail of the Moose Wilderness dedicated to the vision of Winton Weydemeyer."

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

John Frederick,
President, NFPA

Alert to the Residents of Flathead County

by John Frederick

The draft Growth Plan released as a work in progress in April by the Flathead County Planning Board has the potential to supersede all neighborhood plans and existing county regulations. For instance, the North Fork right now has a 20 acre minimum subdivision, but that changes to 5 acres minimum subdivision if the Growth Plan is passed by the County Commissioners as it is now written. Agricultural zoning in the County often has 20, 40 or 80 acre minimum subdivision and that will be changed.

In November of 2002 the County Planning Board held a meeting in the North Fork to ask what the North Forkers wanted. After years of working on zoning the unanimous, spirited answer given was that the North Forkers wanted the zoning they had just completed. There was no apathy about planning that night.

It was not the intention of the state legislature to have a county Growth Plan that superceded all other regulations, but that is how this one is written.

Here are some of the sentences from the Growth Plan with comments on them:

"Small lots less than one acre in size and mixed uses in and around recognized rural, unincorporated communities of the County shall be encouraged [no matter what the current zoning says]."

"No zoning district or neighborhood plan shall be created that result in minimum lot sizes greater than 5 acres [no matter what the current zoning might be] or discriminate against creation of affordable housing."

"The use of Planned Unit Developments [read fancy subdivision which new regulations currently allow 50% to be businesses wherever they may be] shall be allowed in any zoning district that has an agricultural or suburban agricultural designation."

There are two more sentences that basically change open space into sub-dividable land. Delete all problem sentences (there are more) and you still have a flawed document.

What can you do? Attend the County Planning Board's work sessions on the Growth Plan on Wednesdays (June 30, July 7, 21 and July 28) at 6 pm at the Commissioners' Hearing room (planning office: 751-8200). The Plan is due before the Commissioners in October.

Write now to the County Commissioners, 800 South Main, Kalispell, MT 59901, saying the obvious: that every area in Flathead County should decide what they want and not arbitrarily be changed by the County Planning Board.

NORTH FORK PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION SUMMER SCHEDULE — 2004

Questions about the NFPA and its activities may be directed to nfpa@gravel.org.
A copy of this schedule is posted on our web site at <http://www.gravel.org>.

Saturday, July 3

- ◆ 1:00pm at North Fork Hostel. Board meeting to discuss the Inter Local Agreement meeting on July 21 and the NFPA annual meeting on July 31. Everyone welcome! Meet the board. Phone 888-5084 for details.
- ◆ 7:00pm at Sondreson Community Hall at Whale Creek. Firewise Workshop. Learn more about grant opportunities and fire-safe principles.
- ◆ 8:00pm at Sondreson Community Hall. North Fork Improvement Association business meeting.

Saturday, July 10, Tuchuck Mountain Hike. Strenuous. Elevation gain 3124 ft., 12 miles. Tuchuck is a beautiful peak just south of the Canadian border. Hikers will learn about the Montana Wilderness Association's transboundary work, the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, and the proposed Winton Weydemeyer Wilderness. This will be a full day of beauty, information, and inspiration. Bring plenty of water, lunch and binoculars. Meet at Tuchuck campground, 8 a.m. Call Dave Hadden (837-0783) by June 30 to reserve a spot. Sponsored by the Montana Wilderness Association (MWA).

Saturday, July 17, 8:30 am at end of Whale Creek Road. Trail maintenance by horse and mule on Mount Thompson Seton. Up Inuya Creek Trail to Thompson Seton and return by Ninko Creek Trail. In the proposed Winton Weydemeyer Wilderness or as NFPA prefers to call it: Yakinikak or Trail of the Moose Wilderness. Phone Frank evenings at 752-2909 or John at 888-5084. Need water, lunch, gloves and animal to ride without falling off.

Wednesday, July 21, 6:30pm at Sondreson Hall, Whale Creek, Inter Local Meeting hosted by the North Fork Improvement Association. Make your voice heard to all government agencies. Be there. Potluck at 5:00pm hosted by Glacier Institute.

Saturday, July 24, Nasukoin Mountain Hike. Strenuous. 12 Miles. Nasukoin Mountain is the highest peak in the Whitefish Range. The trail is on open ridges much of the way and provides fantastic views of Link and Chain Lakes as well as peaks in all directions. Meet at the Merc at 8 a.m. Led by Debo Powers. Call MWA (406-443-7350 ext. 102) for reservations by July 16. Sponsored by MWA.

Saturday, July 31, 5:30pm at Sondreson Hall, North Fork Preservation Association potluck, annual meeting and elections. Program begins approximately at 7:30pm. Fernie City Councilmember David Thomas will speak on the coalbed methane proposals near Fernie and in the Flathead (North Fork) of British Columbia. These projects have an extremely high probability of sending pollutants in waterways across the International Border.

Saturday, August 14, Mt. Thompson Seton Hike. Strenuous. Elevation gain 3220 ft. 10 miles. Mt. Thompson Seton is at the center of the proposed Winton Weydemeyer Wilderness Area. Expect mostly open, very scenic terrain. A "must" hike to anyone interested in preserving the North Fork Wilderness Legacy. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and binoculars. Meet at the junction of the Whale Cr. and North Fork. Rds. at 8 a.m. Call Dave Hadden (837-0783) by July 31 to reserve a spot. Sponsored by MWA.

Saturday, August 21, 8:30 am at the end of Whale Creek Road. Trail maintenance by horse and mule on a loop along Whale Creek to Whale Lake along the Whitefish Divide to Huntsburger Lake back to where we started. Most of these trails are in the Winton Weydemeyer or Trail of the Moose Proposed Wilderness. Phone Frank evenings at 752-2909 or John at 888-5084. Need water, lunch. Gloves and animal to ride without falling off.

Sunday, August 29, Thoma Lookout/Jack Johns Memorial Hike II. Moderately strenuous. 7-8 miles. The views from the top are superb, extending will into British Columbia and Glacier National Park. A variety of tree types, wildflowers, clear streams, and slowly tiring but exuberant hikers will be seen. At the lookout we will renew our memories of Jack Johns, who died 8 years ago at the age of 85. Jack completed a ten-mile hike in the North Fork with gusto the day before he died. Meet at 9 a.m. at Tuchuck campground. Call Ross Titus (837-5666) by August 22 to reserve a spot. Sponsored by MWA.

Wednesday, September 8, is the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Saturday, September 18, Cyclone Lookout Hike. Easy to moderate. 4.5 miles. General interpretation will be offered along the way with some focus on fire ecology and fire history of the area. Meet at the Merc at 9:15am. Call R.J. Devitt at 253-1211 before Sept. 4 to reserve a spot. Cosponsored by MWA and the Glacier Institute Staff.

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR DUES YET, IT'S TIME!

If there is a green line on your mailing label, you have paid your dues for 2004. ***Thank you!***

I want to help protect the North Fork of the Flathead River Valley at the western edge of Glacier National Park.

_____	New	Name	_____
_____	Renewal	Address	_____

		Phone	_____
		Email	_____

I want to join the NFPA. Here is my membership fee of \$15.00/year _____
family membership of \$20.00/year _____
living lightly membership of \$10.00/year _____

I want to help. Here is my donation of _____ for _____

Interested in receiving the "North Fork Bear News"? See the note below.

Please remove me from your mailing list. ____

NFPA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your contribution is tax deductible

Mail check or cash to: North Fork Preservation Association
c/o Ellen Horowitz
880 Blackmer Drive
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
(406) 752-2909

The informative and unusual "North Fork Bear News" is published annually as a cooperative effort of North Fork residents, Tim Manley, grizzly bear management specialist for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the North Fork Preservation Association, and private donors. The editor is North Fork biologist Amy Edmonds with help from Gerry Wackrow and Ellen Horowitz. It is mailed to landowners. If you want a copy write NFPA, 80 Beaver Drive, Polebridge, MT 59928. Indicate donations to support Bear News on the membership/renewal form "I want to help" line.

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Bill Walker, Web Master/Newsletter Editor wkwalker@nvdi.com

Officers are elected for a one-year term; board members for two. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact a board member.

North Fork Preservation Association

80 Beaver Drive
Polebridge MT 59928

Please remember to pay your dues!