



# News from Libby Creek

a starter newsletter

## Border Patrol on Lookout Mt...

...Where is the wilderness boundary?

A squiggle on a map here, a line there, and wilderness is protected, or forgotten. The Forest Service will finalize their Forest plan in the next year or so, determining their management practices for a long time to come, and the fate of the 18,000+ acre Lookout Mountain Roadless Area hangs in the balance. Will it fill with new roads, as the provisional draft of the plan allows? Should only a quarter of it be considered "potential wilderness", as the Forest Service currently claims? Or should all of it be designated wilderness, as conservationists wish? Will we succeed in passing this amazing region down intact to the next generation?



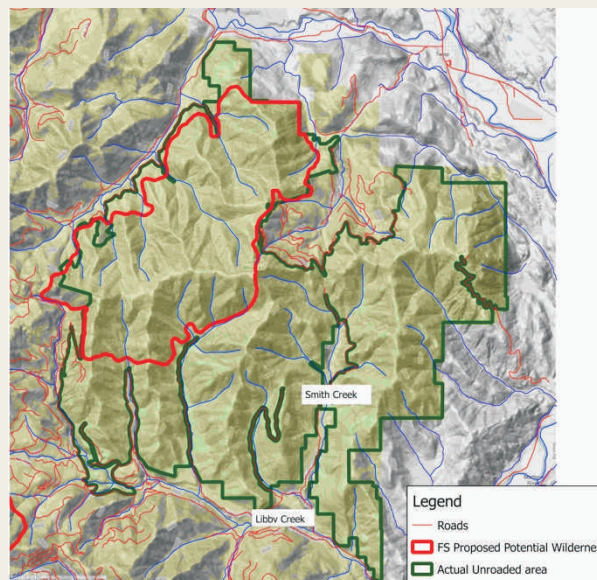
*the forest service claims the land to the left of the red line is potential wilderness, and to the right is not...*

Many people don't realize that the Lookout Mountain region contains a vast unroaded landscape of at least 18,000 acres... way more land than many designated wilderness areas. It is not just beautiful, it is critical habitat for an

amazing mix of creatures, both endangered and common. What is hard to understand is why the Forest Service acknowledges only 5,000 of its acres as potential wilderness, and excludes much of the most vital, and beautiful land.

We recently filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Forest Service asking for any documentation of how their

(continued on page 2)



*click map to open larger version in your browser*

### Lookout Mountain Roadless Website open for business.

Well, we thought we'd wait till we got the kinks out of it before opening up the Lookout Roadless Area to the public. And we waited. And waited. That was months ago, and we're thinking maybe a few kinks are OK. Take a look and see what you think. There's more that can be done, so feel free to contribute.



### Newsletter from Nowhere

So where did this newsletter come from? Outer Space? Well, sort of. Ray and I (that would be moi, Breathe) have been talking about a way to keep us all in touch about what's going on, the good, the bad, and the ugly of protecting our ecosystem. I finally decided that if the better half didn't get started, I might as well start typing... As you can see, we could use some classy contributions.



## News from Libby Creek Page 2

...Where is the wilderness boundary? (cont. from page 1)

version of the Lookout Mountain Potential Wilderness boundary was determined, to see if there was a method to their madness. The answer: there are no documents. No rationale was given for why such a limited area has been selected for wilderness recommendation. Hiking through the area, it is often impossible to see any difference between one side of the potential wilderness border and

the other. (see picture on page 1)

One of the most important, and largest areas excluded from the forest service version is the upper Smith Canyon/Smith Ridge/McClure Mountain roadless area. This is a vital zone, not just because of its size, but because of the extensive use of this area by wildlife, including deer, bear, bobcats, cougar, and wolves.

Now is the time to contact the Forest Service, and tell them they made a mistake and need to redraw the Lookout Mountain potential wilderness boundary to include the actual roadless area. Write a letter to the Methow Ranger District, with a copy to the Supervisor's office, and tell the Forest Service to correct their error, and correctly map and protect this region (you can find their addresses on the [www.lookoutroadless.org](http://www.lookoutroadless.org) website). Also mention to friends that this area needs our attention, and encourage them to check out its beauty. We have a shot at keeping this amazing area wild.



*A view of the upper Smith Ridge/McClure zone currently not being considered for protection by the Forest Service.*

## Major Timber Sale Being Considered for Libby Creek

Though the Forest Service would appear to have its hands full with the massive South Summit cut (taking place South of Highway 20 for miles along the Loup Loup summit ridge), they are starting to consider what could be one of the biggest impacts to our drainage in years. The preliminary information is spotty, and contains typical euphemisms of the

times (proposed landscape treatment area, promote a more resilient landscape, fuel reduction, etc.) It's being called the Mission Planning area, and rumours have it that it could impact large portions of the Libby Creek drainage. Let's all keep sharing what we learn about this so we can affect its course early on.

### How to contact us:

The best way to reach us is through our email:

[contact@lookoutroadless.org](mailto:contact@lookoutroadless.org)

Please do not send any group mailings—write if you have something personal to say only.

### Newsletter from Nowhere part 2

Don't forget to let us know if you would like to write something for our next issue!

### Timber Sale Update—

We now have a map of the 40,000 acre "Mission Planning Area" within which timber sales will be planned. Click [here](#) to see it.