



**North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Council
FY15 Project Report
2015 Volunteer and Internship Program
May 7 to October 27, 2015**



*Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation annual staff and intern training was held at Lochsa Historical Ranger Station, Idaho County, ID, June 2-10, 2015.
Interns: Adam Hoge, Carly Stinson, Jake Henry, Monte Cole, Nolan Fromm, Perer Breigenzer, Susan Eisenbraun, Taryn Schreiner, Tyler Lee, Melinda Horn.
SBFC staff: Coby Gierke, Claire Muller, Greg Aerni, Ben Stein, Dylan Barbash, Stephanie Wright, Erick Schweitzer.*

Southwest Idaho Office
P.O. Box 1886
Boise, ID 83701

Introduction

In 2015, the North Central Idaho (NCI) RAC generously supported the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation (SBFC) Volunteer and Internship Program with an \$75,000 grant. SBFC put the funding to work on the ground, implementing the program starting in May of 2015 and worked through October 27, 2015. The following report documents a **financial review** of the grant and the **on-the-ground accomplishments** that resulted from the NCI RAC grant.

Financial Review

The project start date identified in the initial RAC proposal was May 1, 2014.

The funding for the SBFC Volunteer Coordination Program in FY14 has been spent as in the following manner:

Expense	Details	Amount
SBFC Project Leaders Salary, Benefits, Training, Travel, Per Diem, Uniforms, Equipment, Administrative	Coby Gierke, SBE Program Director and Sally Ferguson, Exec. Director	\$45,765.00
Staff Travel and Per Diem		2,647.00
		Staff Expense Total: 48,412.00
Wilderness Ranger Intern, housing, training, uniform, maps, PPE	Nolan Fromm	\$5,238.00
Wilderness Ranger Intern, housing, training, uniform, maps, PPE	Jake Henry	\$5,238.00
Wilderness Ranger Intern, housing, training, uniform, maps, PPE	Taryn Schreiner	\$5,238.00
Wilderness Ranger Intern, housing, training, uniform, maps, PPE	Susan Eisenbraun	\$5,238.00
		WR Intern Expense Total: 20,952.00
Volunteer Reimbursement	Volunteer Packers	\$1,028.00
Volunteer Reimbursement	Volunteer Cabin Hosts	\$5,618.00
Volunteer Reimbursement	National Smokejumper Association Project	\$1,500.00
Volunteer Reimbursement	Trail Project Volunteer Food	\$1,300.00
		Volunteer Reimbursement Total: \$9,446.00
Tools and Equipment	Field tools & equipment for project work	Tools and Equipment Total: \$1,145.00
Administrative Costs	Accounting, technology and website	Administrative Costs: \$5,663.00
		TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$85,618.00

The remainder of the funds that were not spent in FY15 will go towards accomplishing the same goals in FY16 in Idaho County.

Equally important, the SBFC did **NOT** spend any North Central Idaho RAC funding on the following items:

- Overhead costs aside from financial administration
- Projects located in Montana or outside of Idaho County
- Office projects
- Publications
- Supplies not associated with field work

As stated in the NCI RAC proposal, leveraging funds through volunteer efforts is critical to making this NCI RAC-funded project return more dollar value than was put in. The following reflects the actual value of volunteer labor that was performed *directly as a result of RAC funding*:

Volunteer hours contributed by interns to Idaho County projects:	2240
Volunteer hours contributed by citizens to Idaho County projects:	5,096
Value of SBFC volunteer time contributed to Idaho County projects:	\$169,242.00
2015 NCI RAC funding provided:	\$75,000

On-the-Ground Accomplishments

The SBFC project work that was funded through the NCI RAC occurred entirely within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and entirely within Idaho County. The SBFC projects primarily focused on three types of work projects:

- Trail Opening and Maintenance
- Trash Removal
- Cabin Hosting & Maintenance

Additional work included trail tread stabilization, campsite inventory and restoration, and interacting with visitors.

The following is a brief summary of the SBFC’s major accomplishments resulting from the Idaho County projects:

Trail Maintenance

Miles of trail maintained:	323 miles
Trees cut out of trails:	4,315 trees
Water bars cleaned or constructed:	613 drains maintained/repaired/constructed
Miles of brushing on trails:	156 miles of trail brushed
Miles of rock removal from trails:	119.75 miles of rock removal from trail
Pounds of trash removed or cached:	225 pounds of trash removed or cached
Campsites inventoried:	49 campsites
Campfire rings removed:	55 campfire rings
Trail signs inventoried and installed:	7 signs inventoried and 7 installed
Cabin Hosting:	20 volunteers at Moose Creek, Shearer and Fish Lake

Trails that received significant work:	Colt Killed Creek # 50
	Warm Springs #49
	Mocus Point
	Lewis and Clark #25
	Selway Trail
	Lone Knob Trail
	Wind Lakes Trail

The following list provides further details for each SBFC project associated with FY14 North Central Idaho RAC funding:

Note: Because of the many fires and the forest closures due to fire on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest in August and September, SBFC had to cancel 3 scheduled projects. Cabin hosts were also affected.

2015 Cabin Hosting

Moose Creek RS - Fourteen volunteers provided hosting from April through mid-November and contributed over 2,448 volunteer hours greeting visitors and maintaining the historic site.

Fish Lake - Three volunteers provided hosting for the month of September, contributing close to 200 volunteer hours.

Shearer – Three volunteers provided hosting from August through October and contributed 576 hours.

2015 Trail Projects

May 7 to 15, SBFC Staff Training at Lochsa Historic Station

The first four days of staff training were held at Lochsa Historic Station. We scouted trails in the area for potential trail work, worked on Sheep Creek Trail, built a small rock retaining wall at Weir, and learned about SBFC. Then the SBFC trail crew worked out of Powell and logged out and brushed trails in the Nez Perce Clearwater: Colt Killed Creek # 50, Warm Springs #49, Mocus Point, and Lewis and Clark #25.

May 11 to May 15, Stock Use and Packing Training at Ninemile Ranger Station

Three SBFC staff members received stock training from the professionals at Ninemile Ranger Station. The course taught everything about stock use, equipment, packing and handling. It culminated in a two day overnight stock trip, where staff rode a horse and lead a string of two mules they had packed.

May 21 to May 29, Wilderness First Responder Training

The SBFC Trail Crew and the four SBFC-NP-CNF Wilderness Ranger Interns spent eight days completing the intensive Wilderness First Responder course at Lubrecht Experimental Forest. This training ensures medical readiness in a backcountry setting.

June 2 to June 10, SBFC Wilderness Skills Training for SBFC Staff and Interns

The entire SBFC Staff and Wilderness Ranger Intern Teams converged upon Lochsa Historic Station for a week of skills based trainings. Interns and staff were split into small teams and then rotated through five skills stations over the course of the week. Each team spent a full day working with skilled trainers and learned 1) trail maintenance and standards, 2) crosscut saw and axe use, 3) wilderness campsite and character monitoring, 4) defensive horsemanship and packing, and 5) LNT and backcountry travel tips. Connie Johnson and the Renshaw and Binninger families donated 5 days of time and expertise. Training also included two-days of crosscut saw training and B-Bucker level certifications for all staff and interns.

June 15 to June 23, Selway Trail Maintenance

The CFLR Trail Crew and Wilderness Ranger Interns Jake Henry and Nolan Fromme worked on Selway Trail Number 4 between Three Links Creek and Halfway Creek. They hiked into Pinchot and then into Tango Creek, where they base camped. The next two days included retread work from Tango Creek towards Halfway Creek with intermittent brushing. They worked towards Three Links Creek for two days doing retread, brushing, and installing check steps in a heavily trenched out section of trail. On the last day they headed out towards Halfway Creek and installed check dams in a heavily trenched out section of trail.

June 16 to June 24, Boulder Creek Trail Maintenance and Horse Camp Improvements

After a 10 mile hike in to Horse Camp, the Wilderness Ranger Interns, lead by SBFC-CFLR Powell Liaison, Greg Aerni found the place in shambles. They cleaned, cut a half cord of firewood, stained the floor of the historic structure and cleaned up a pack rat mess in the tack shed. They also cleared many of the local trails, making it out to Fish Lake Airstrip, Long Lake and Stanley Hot Springs, and Lone Knob trail. In total, they cleared about 200 trees from over 35 miles of trail and each of the team hiked around 70 miles over 8 days.

June 30 to July 8, Warm Springs and Wind Lakes Trail Maintenance

Four SBFC- NP-C NF Wilderness Interns joined SBFC Powell Liaison, Greg Aerni, and USFS Wilderness Ranger, Ben Wilson, for an eight day hitch, clearing the Warm Springs Trail and many of the surrounding trails. They worked their way through Wag Meadows and went around McConnell Mountain. Then they moved to Army Mule Saddle and worked up to Grave Peak. Then they exited through Kooskia Meadows. They cleared over 50 miles of trails, opening up much of the Powell District trails.

July 14 to July 19, Big Sand Lake Volunteer Project

Four SBFC Wilderness Ranger Interns, Powell Liaison, Greg Aerni and SBFC Program Director Coby Gierke spent a beautiful week working near the shores of Big Sand Lake with a hardworking group of 9 SBFC volunteers. They crew spent most of their time improving the trail up to Frog Lake and installing rock water bars along the shore of Big Sand Lake. The trip was seen as a great success by the volunteers, who contributed 6 days and 432 volunteer hours.

July 19 to July 24, National Smoke Jumper Big Sand Lake-Blodget Pass Volunteer Project

Bob Whaley coordinated and led this 6 day project. His crew of 9 worked for 6 days and 5 packers supported the project. The NSA report is attached to this report.

July 26 to July 31, IDAWA Volunteer Group at Wind Lakes

SBFC's 2014 Wilderness Ranger Intern, Patrick Johnson, lead the annual SBFC-IDAWA partnership volunteer project. SBFC board member Connie Saylor Johnson started this partnership several years ago and each year brings up to a dozen Iowa volunteers to the SBW. This year, the 11-person crew spent the hitch opening the trail to Wind Lakes before completing deferred maintenance projects, including 6.5 miles of brushing and clearing 142 drains. They contributed 528 hours.

July 28 to August 4, Copper Butte and Cove Lakes Trail Maintenance

All of the SBFC NP-C NF Seasonal Staff and Wilderness Ranger Interns worked together for a hitch of work split between Copper Butte and Cove Lakes, logging out many trails, including a nice backpacking route into the Crags. Fires pushed them all over the wilderness, but they had a great time working together in the high country of the Selway.

August 11 to August 16, Selway River Trail Tango to Cedar Flats

For the first part of this project the Wilderness Ranger Interns worked on Selway Trail Number 4 between Tango Creek and Cedar Flats with Ben Stein. Then they teamed up with the MCC immersion crew to do some retread and retaining walls in the area where the Meeker fire recently burned. They were able to finish this work early and spent their last two days clearing and brushing at Wilderness Gateway campground.

August 18 to August 21, Tour'd Idaho and Internship Close Out

Wilderness Ranger Interns traveled from Boise to Missoula, meeting with wilderness professionals and county commissioners, to talk about their wilderness work accomplishments and learn from community leaders.

September 24 to September 27, Boulder Creek and Stanley Hot Springs Volunteer Project

SBFC staff member Claire Muller and Powell Liaison, Greg Aerni spent a beautiful weekend at Stanley Hot Springs, working on the Boulder Creek ford and cutting plenty of logs out of the trail heading up to the Seven Lakes Area. SBFC volunteers Jim Heidelberg and Lee Harville joined Greg and Claire in the perfect September weather to complete the final 2016 SBFC volunteer project, in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Summary

As a result of funding from the North Central Idaho RAC in FY15, the 2015 SBFC Volunteer and Wilderness Internship Program was highly successful in accomplishing its goals. As a result we were able to:

- Accomplish priority work within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in Idaho County
- Leverage NCI RAC funds to return \$2.00 for each RAC dollar spent
- Provide much-needed trail opening and trail maintenance
- Provide volunteer leadership that otherwise would not have existed

We accomplished a significant amount of much-needed work within Idaho County wilderness in 2015 as a result of North Central Idaho RAC funding, but there is much more to be done. We hope that, if reauthorized, the RAC will continue to support our efforts to provide leadership for volunteers and interns, and help take care of the spectacular wildlands of Idaho County.