

# NEWS RELEASE

## Nez Perce National Forest

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Grangeville, ID 83530

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## Clearwater National Forest

12730 Highway 12  
Orofino, ID 83544

Contact: Elayne Murphy  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: February 9, 2009

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### Selway-Bitterroot Foundation Hosts Third Annual Gathering in Lewiston

*Orofino, ID*--The Selway-Bitterroot Foundation is sponsoring their "Third Annual Winter Gathering and Fundraiser" Saturday, February 21, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Lewis-Clark State College Center for Arts and History.

The Foundation, which is comprised of a group of citizens interested in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and surrounding wildland ecosystems, has forged a partnership with the Clearwater, Nez Perce and Bitterroot National Forests to assist in the stewardship of the Wilderness and adjacent lands.

Keynote speaker and noted Wildlife Biologist Dr. Gary Koehler will present "Wilderness, Wild Areas and Wildlife." Koehler studied pine martens during two winters at Fish Lake in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness early in his career. His interest in carnivores and wilderness led to studies of cougars and bobcats in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. He has also worked with tigers in China and India, and African lions in Kenya where he taught Wildlife Management at Moi University. He is currently a Wildlife Research Scientist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Selway-Bitterroot Foundation supports a volunteer program that capitalizes on the experience and knowledge of a diverse group of individuals who assist with stewardship. Stewardship programs include wilderness awareness and conservation education; trail maintenance and reconstruction; site restoration; native wildlife and fisheries enhancement; the monitoring of natural conditions and disturbance patterns; and invasive species abatement.

The Foundation's work is supported through donations and was also supported in 2006 through 2008 by grants from the National Forest and Cinnabar Foundations as well as The Wilderness Society.

Individuals interested in learning about, supporting, or contacting a board or advisory committee member should visit the Foundation's website, [www.fs.fed.us/sbfoundation](http://www.fs.fed.us/sbfoundation), to find a list of members or download a brochure.. Individuals can also e-mail the Foundation at [SelwayBitterroot@gmail.com](mailto:SelwayBitterroot@gmail.com).

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