

Celebration of Wilderness – “Big Creek – the Gateway to the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness”

When – Where: August 23, 2014 at Big Creek Lodge and Big Creek Forest Service Work Station.

Background: On September 3, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act. This historic bill established the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) for the use and benefit of the American people.

Over the past 50 years, and as a result of America's support for wilderness, Congress has added over 100 million acres to this unique land preservation system. The 1964 Wilderness Act defines "Wilderness" as areas where the earth and its communities of life are left untrammelled by people, where the primary forces of nature are in control, and where people themselves are visitors who do not remain.

The Payette National Forest contains a portion of the largest Wilderness area in the “lower 48.” At 2.4 million acres, the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness is literally in the backyard of residents of central Idaho.

Schedule:

8:00am to 10:00 – Breakfast - Idaho Aviation Foundation (Rebuild Big Creek Lodge). \$10/plate

9:30 to 10:00 – Music presented by Mike Dixon. Mike has written and performed songs specifically related to wilderness – enjoy your breakfast and music.

10:15 to 11:00 – Tour the Forest Service Big Creek work Station. Tour guide Earl Dodds served as the Chamberlain and Big Creek District Ranger from 1958 through 1984. This is an opportunity to meet and chat with Earl, who was one of the key figures in shaping the early years of the Idaho Primitive Area and wilderness.

11:00 to noon - Wilderness Tool Display & Pack String Display: Hosted by the Krassel Ranger District staff.

