



American Wildlands

30th Anniversary Regional Tours

June 21–26, 2008: HIGH DIVIDE & YELLOWSTONE REGION
SW Montana — East-Central Idaho — Yellowstone

September 13–18, 2008: NORTHERN ROCKIES
Northwestern Montana — Northern Idaho



American Wildlands
30th
ANNIVERSARY

American Wildlands at 30

This year, American Wildlands celebrates thirty years of conservation programs and accomplishments. While our strategic forte has changed a few times in those three decades, the primary focus of the organization has remained the same—to use the most cutting edge conservation science and tools available to help inform, guide and strengthen our on-the-ground efforts to conserve the vast wildlands and abundant wildlife of the U.S Northern Rockies.

American Wildlands celebrates this distinguished landmark with a series of events throughout the year. In addition to our grand celebration in mid-July, we also want to take time to highlight our major projects areas and successes with friends and members. These 6-day tours provide you with a fun and instructive opportunity to more fully experience some of the best of America's wildlands, while contributing to American Wildlands' future conservation efforts.

As part of our 30th anniversary, American Wildlands will raise \$300,000 for our Clif Merritt Wildlands Opportunity Fund. Included in the cost of this exclusive trip is a \$1,000 contribution toward that campaign and conservation fund.



Grizzly bear (USFWS).



AWL Field Trip in the High Divide.

2008 Regional Tours

Because of your commitment to conservation, we cordially invite you to take part in an exceptional opportunity to experience and enjoy the magnificent landscape of the Northern Rockies, and learn about the region's natural history and ecology. This trip also serves as a chance to see first-hand all that American Wildlands is doing to keep this world-renowned area ecologically-connected, intact, and whole.

Traveling in comfortable cars with a group of no more than eight participants, these tours cover some of the most beautiful portions of Montana and Idaho, and each includes a stay in a National Park (Yellowstone in the summer, Glacier in the fall). You will have the added benefit of a Lighthawk-sponsored plane tour (weather permitting) one day on each trip.

Please join us on either June 21-26, or September 13-18. Each day of each tour includes a visit to an American Wildlands field project site, where we talk and exchange ideas with local biologists, agency personnel, ranchers, opinion leaders and other AWL conservation partners. There is also time to relax, take walks and explore with American Wildlands staff and naturalists.

A payment of \$2,500 covers the accommodations, transportation, food, and beverages on each trip. This cost includes a \$1,000 tax-deductible donation to AWL, as part of our 30th anniversary fundraising campaign.

Please contact Catherine Viscardi at (406) 586-8175 x.108 or cviscardi@wildlands.org for further information and to reserve your spot. Reservations are due by May 21st for the summer tour, and August 13th for the fall. Space is limited to 8 participants per trip.



Lemhi Pass.

Summer Tour Itinerary

Green rolling hills, lightly snow-capped mountains, roaming wildlife with newborn—early summer in the Northern Rockies! For many people, there is no better time to enjoy the vast wildlands, abundant wildlife and rural countryside of one of the U.S. Northern Rockies' most diverse landscapes—the High Divide and Greater Yellowstone region.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST

Leave Missoula mid-morning for the day's destination of Salmon, Idaho. The drive takes us up and over Lost Trail Pass, with views into the heart of the Salmon-Selway Wilderness Complex of central Idaho. Along the way, we drive through the scenic Bitterroot Valley, meet American Wildlands' co-founder Clif Merritt, and begin to get a first-hand look at how AWL works to link the "string of pearls" of the region's best habitats. Once we arrive in Salmon, guests enjoy an afternoon of birding, rafting down the Salmon River, or just relaxing. We spend the night at the beautiful Syringa Lodge in Salmon.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND

After breakfast at the lodge, the tour follows in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark, heading down the Lemhi Valley before crossing the Continental Divide at Lemhi Pass—the spot where Lewis & Clark first gazed over the Continental Divide. Here, in the very southwest corner of Montana, we are joined by Tim Bozorth, manager of the Bureau of Land Management's Dillon (MT) Field Office, who takes us on a tour of the Horse Prairie area—a grassland/sagebrush valley bordered by mountain ranges, typical of the High

Divide region. American Wildlands identified Horse Prairie as a critical habitat area for elk, antelope and sage grouse. After a visit to the ghost town in Bannock State Park, we head north to Grasshopper Valley and the Pioneer Mountains for a stay at the Montana High Country Lodge.

MONDAY, JUNE 23RD

This day we take a loop drive through the aptly-named Big Hole Valley, down the Wise River and through the Pioneer Mountains. While in the Big Hole, we meet with representatives of The Nature Conservancy to discuss efforts to conserve both the wildlife and rural landscapes of the west. Time permitting, we visit the Big Hole National Battlefield, before spending the afternoon hiking or fishing. Some may opt to cast a line in the blue ribbon Wise River, while others hike through the wildflowers of the Pioneer Mountains. We cap off the tour with a visit to the Elkhorn Hot Springs for a relaxing soak. Dinner at the High Country Lodge, where we spend a second night.



Blue Ribbon Fishing in Southwestern Montana.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24TH

We start the fourth day with an exciting early morning overflight (weather permitting) from the nearby town of Dillon—home of AWL's newest field office—to the Centennial Valley—home of the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. During this spectacular flight (courtesy of LightHawk), AWL staff gives you a guided tour of the gorgeous mountain and valley landscape we pass over. We then spend the day touring through the Wildlife

Refuge and surrounding valley, meeting with the Wildlife Refuge Manager and ranchers from the local Centennial Valley Association. No doubt, these discussions will focus on the intersection between managing public lands and private ranchlands, and balancing conservation of wildlife like grizzly bears and wolves with livestock ranching.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25TH

We start our journey to Yellowstone National Park with a scenic tour of Henry's Lake, Raynold's Pass and Hebgen Lake, before entering the Park through the town of West Yellowstone. At Raynold's Pass, we get to see a classic example of a wildlife corridor crossing private lands and a highway. We then spend most of this final full day touring the glories of Yellowstone—from Old Faithful to Yellowstone Lake to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River. AWL staff looks forward to the opportunity to meet with Park biologists to discuss wolf reintroduction/restoration, grizzly bear management, and other wildlife conservation topics. We spend the night in the Park at the Canyon Pioneer Lodges, with dinner at Yellowstone Lake.



Yellowstone's Old Faithful.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26TH

After some sunrise wildlife viewing, we leave Yellowstone through Mammoth Hot Springs and the Park's historic north entrance. We make a quick stop at Bozeman Pass, one of American Wildlands lead project areas for both our Corridors of Life and Safe Passages programs, before returning to Bozeman in time for early afternoon flights home.



Glacier National Park (USFWS).

Fall Tour Itinerary

Vibrant shades of gold and rust, rugged mountains with early snowfall, rutting wildlife—autumn in the Northern Rockies. For many people, this is an exhilarating time of year, as wildlife prepare for winter, the landscape changes colors and travelers get their last visits in before the snowfall. Its combination of beauty and urgency is most dramatic in the northern part of the region—in northwestern Montana and northern Idaho.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

Travel from Missoula up to beautiful Flathead Lake. Along the way, we meet with biologists from the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes to discuss their work with Montana's Department of Transportation to build 42 fish and wildlife crossing structures on Highway 93 through the Flathead Indian Reservation. Arriving in Big Fork, Montana, we spend the afternoon exploring the "Wild Mile" of the nearby Swan River, or visiting the Swan River National Wildlife Refuge. After an evening cruise on Flathead Lake, we spend the night lakeside at Bridge Street Cottages.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

Today, we travel to Glacier National Park. We start the day with a short visit to an American Wildlands' wildlife highway crossing project northeast of Bigfork, where we visit with a field representative of Montana Department of Transportation to discuss American Wildlands' Safe Passages program. Then we begin our tour of the Glacier National Park area. Before lunch, we travel with Park Biologist John Waller along a portion of Highway 2, which is a major AWL project area, and learn about how projected development on this road could create an insurmountable barrier in this major wildlife movement corridor. We then continue on Highway 2 along the southern border of the Park until we arrive on the "Rocky Mountain Front," where the mountains meet the grasslands of the Great Plains. After having lunch in the Park village of St. Mary, we enjoy a drive through Glacier Park on the world famous "Going to the Sun" road. We spend the night at the Park's historic Lake McDonald Lodge, on the edge of the hotel's namesake.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

After some early morning wildlife viewing for those interested, we head west to the northwest corner of Montana. This day takes us through the sparsely populated and denser forested world of the Whitefish, Salish, Purcell and Cabinet mountain ranges. Along the way, there are opportunities to see numerous American Wildlands Corridors of Life project areas, take in the 50 mile Lake Koocanusa, and be dazzled by the golden yellow needles of the larch tree in early fall foliage. We spend that night at the Bighorn Lodge in the scenic Bull River Valley, just northwest of Noxon, Montana.



*Coyote (Lance
Craighead).*



Bighorn Sheep (Fred Stillings).

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

The group is treated to an early morning overflight (weather permitting) of the Selkirk, Cabinet and Yaak mountain ranges of northern Idaho and northwest Montana. During this spectacular flight (courtesy of LightHawk), AWL staff gives you a guided tour of this landscape of ridges, rivers and dark, dense forests. After breakfast in Sandpoint, Idaho, on the edge of Lake Pend Oreille, we take a short drive north to the McArthur Lake Wildlife Management Area, where American Wildlands has been working with Idaho Transportation Department and others on reducing wildlife deaths on State Highway 95. From there, we travel to Montana's most northern valley—the Yaak Valley. There, we visit and hike with critically-acclaimed writer Rick Bass (author of *The Ninemile Wolves*) to discuss his knowledge of, and passion for, this rugged and remote landscape (assuming Rick has not been called away by another great adventure/story). Then, we return to the Bighorn Lodge for a second night.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

After a lovely drive down the Clark Fork River, past another AWL project site where we worked with the Montana Department of Transportation to keep bighorn sheep from getting killed on Highway 200, we arrive in

the Ninemile Valley. There, we have lunch with members of the local Ninemile Wildlife Workgroup (of which AWL is a member) and learn about this citizen-led conservation effort to protect the area's wildlife and rural landscape. The afternoon is spent enjoying the natural surroundings with a myriad of choices: hiking, flyfishing or just relaxing at your lodge. Supper is served on the porch of the cozy Running Horse Inn on Ninemile Creek, where half the tour spends the night. The other half stays at the nearby historic 9mile Schoolhouse Inn.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

After an al fresco breakfast, the tour heads back to Missoula airport for afternoon flights.



Montana Fall foliage (Chuck Pezeski).

Travel Details

GETTING THERE: If you are arriving by plane, we suggest flying into Missoula, MT. If you live in the Bozeman area, rides from Bozeman to Missoula can be arranged with our staff.

MEALS: Most breakfasts are taken at our place of lodging. Lunches will be eaten in the field, picnic-style. All dinners are eaten at local lodges or restaurants. We are happy to accommodate any dietary restrictions.

CLIMATE: Be prepared for any type of weather. In the field, temperatures could range from 20° to 90°.

DRESS: Casual outdoor clothes with lots of layers. (Dinners are casual but neat.)

GEAR: Be sure to bring sunscreen, binoculars, camera, hiking shoes or boots, hat, sunglasses, rain gear, and a spotting scope (if you have one). We will have some scopes to share.

If you would like to extend your visit, we suggest you make your reservations as early as possible. We are always glad to help with suggested itineraries & accommodations.

For more information about American Wildlands and our programs, please visit our website or contact us:

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For more information about our Regional Tours, please contact Catherine Viscardi, our Event and Corporate Support Coordinator:

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