11-15-1996

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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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AUTHOR/FORESTER TO DISCUSS LAND USE, PRESERVATION NOV. 21

MISSOULA –

National forest management and one man’s personal relationship with the land will share the spotlight Thursday evening, Nov. 21, in a free, public lecture by retired district ranger Bud Moore.

Moore, author of the newly published "The Lochsa Story," will discuss "Land Ethics in the Bitterroot Mountains" at 7:30 p.m. in the Summit Conference Center on the first floor of Missoula’s Milwaukee Station. The lecture is sponsored by The University of Montana’s Center for the Rocky Mountain West.

Moore said his talk, like his book, will relate the story of the ecosystem surrounding the Lochsa River "as an example of how we’ve lived with landscapes in the Northwest."

Bill Farr, Center for the Rocky Mountain West associate director for humanities, said Moore is a true original, a highly respected forester and observer of human impact on the land.

"In an age that is learning to appreciate authenticity, because of its frequent absence, this man is the genuine article," Farr said. "He combines real experience over a long period of time, intellectual honesty and a shrewdness that his charm belies.

"He’s a charmer, and you’re immediately convinced of his authenticity and convinced as well of the earnestness with which he is grappling with hard questions of land use and land management," Farr said.

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A 40-year veteran of the U.S. Forest Service, Moore now "walks the talk" of his land management principles on about 250 acres of forest land he and his wife, Janet, own near Condon and Ovando. There, he said, they oversee all phases of a low-impact timber operation, "from planting trees to sawing board."

Ecosystem management has never been applied as a policy in the United States, Moore said, regarding his small forestry operation as applied advocacy: "We feel if we can do it on our land, we can demonstrate that it can be done in the national forests."

As a boy, Moore ran trap lines on the west slope of the Bitterroot Range that runs between Idaho and Montana. Later, with the Forest Service, he helped build roads into that pristine landscape and watched as timber was hauled out. His book, like his Center for the Rocky Mountain West lecture, reflects on the changes he observed on the land surrounding the Lochsa River and the broader picture of human impact on the wholeness of the land, conservation policies and ecosystem management.

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