

NOVEMBER 2014



Dear Everybody,

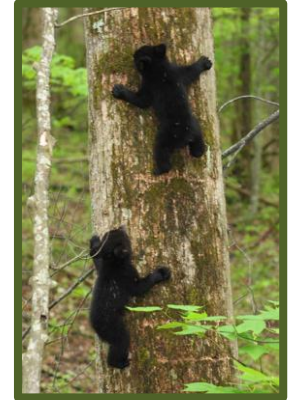
**NOTES FROM MY 2014 JOURNAL: A Northwest valley restored. (Delia)**

woods; largest black bear we have seen here. Pair of Canada geese on nesting stump. Eight mule deer west of creek

**April 22.** 4 male elk east of creek; 12 white tails; 1 black bear. Rain = .32"

**April 25.** 10 elk (8 sexed as m) play and swim!! Probably a bachelor herd of elk arrive at small pond; 3 ease into water, swim from one end of pond to the other; a 4<sup>th</sup> one stands in water, slaps surface with front hooves, splashing. Others continue to swim laps! 5 mule deer; 13 whitetails; 15 wild turkeys; ducks galore. Most frogs ever.

**May 18.** On horseback see two bear cubs climb a tree on ridge west of meadow (Squirrel Tree). Mother bear not seen; Stormy Girl and I take another trail.



**May 23.** 53 degrees F; snow still on mountain top; elk come every evening; seen swimming again; spring melt sheeting over upper meadow; lots of GBHs; 3 Bald eagles; 1 golden eagle feeding on deer carcass.

**May 30.** 3:00 PM – Yearling moose alone east of pond (perhaps mother having new calf); meadow very wet, ankle deep

**June 7.** First whitetail fawn!!

**June 13.** Female elk with new fawn east of creek. First time elk have brought fawns to meadow! Sunshine through mist. 2 elk males, whitetail with fawn; two female turkeys with 15 chicks!

**June 21.** Female bear with two cubs in N. meadow; Skinny Face (w/t deer) has twins! Most snow gone from mountain tops



**June 22.** Bear seen again with cubs. Female eats on sedges; cubs climb cottonwood. \*\*\*\* 6 baby skunks in a line walk across track after dark, see me, stumble into each others' backsides; pile-up; mother appears, looks at me; I move on.

**July 26.** ¾ grown cougar lying in road west of meadow in full daylight; jumps up when he sees me; does not run, walks away through the trees as I watch him. (2 hours later I ride Stormy Girl over the exact spot where cougar lay; no reaction from her.) 3 elk females with 2 yearlings in main meadow. 1 yearling elk chases a whitetail yearling all around pond area. They both prance, twist, turn. Deer circles, then dashes past elk, who bounds after him. Then they both bounce-run and play. 8 minutes.

Through the summer the elk keep coming to meadow. Before, they only came in spring and fall. Geese with 8 goslings south of pond; more than 200 ducks

**August 5.** Bear with cubs in hawthorn. Meadow is still slightly green, but all grasses have seeded out. Deer and elk seen mostly upland in woods; fewer ducks and geese since nesting over. Skinny Face and twins sleep in cedar grove.

**October 15.** First snow in the high country. Meadow golden-brown. Deer getting winter coats and fawns have lost their spots. Geese are gone for the winter.

\*\*\*\*\*



Ten years ago, this meadow was an overgrazed, unprofitable, barren cow pasture. Now that it is protected and the water restored, it has recovered some every year. But this spring and summer it truly came alive and began to sing. And as I write this, we are recovering another large wetland-meadow to protect the habitat and the water, which we all need.

There are many eco-explanations of why we need nature: Seeds of indigenous plants, natural waterways that provide habitat and conserve water, diverse speciation ensures

robust ecosystems that are less likely to become endangered, the production of oxygen, and on and on. But really it is much more than that. When a place is wild, the moss is soft beneath your feet; the soil, moist and alive; grasses hang with heavy seeds, shrubs hum with insect wings, and trees thrum with birdsong. Having wildness around you is like going home.

This important wetland project is part of a larger effort to expand habitat for wildlife and to protect natural resources in the North Idaho. Working with a consortium of organizations we have helped protect 15,000 acres of critical land for the future of people and wildlife.

**Good News for Wolves:** A tiny bit of good news for the wolves. A judge in Wyoming has ruled that they should remain on the endangered species list and be protected in that state. This needs to happen in more western states, but it is a start. Hunting and trapping are legal in many regions, and the wolves in our area are almost gone. Please contact your representative to insist that wolves be protected in the US Northwest.



- **PRESIDENT OBAMA**, The White House - Washington, DC 20500 - Email: [www.whitehouse.gov/contact](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact)
- **CONGRESSIONAL CONTACT INFO:** For Address Info: Write - *The Office of the Clerk of the US House of Representatives*/US Capitol -- Room H154 - Washington, DC 20515 -- PH: 202-225-3121, or you can locate your representative at <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>. You can locate your Congressman's web site and email them directly.
- **SENATOR CONTACT INFO:** call 202-225-3121, or address your letter to: **Senator's Name, US Senate, Washington DC 20515** or visit: [www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)
- **Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell**, DOI -1859 C St NW, Washington DC 20240. 202-208-3100, [feedback@ios.doi.gov](mailto:feedback@ios.doi.gov)
- **Gov. Otter, Office of the Governor**, State Capitol, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720 - or - email him online at <http://gov.idaho.gov/ourgov/contact.html>
- **Gov. Steve Bullock**, Office of the Governor, PO Box 200801, Helena MT 59620-0801, PH 406-444-3111, 855-218-1330, or email at - <https://governor.mt.gov/Home/Contact/shareopinion.aspx>
- **Gov. Matt Mead**, Office of the Governor, 200 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0010 -- or -- email online at <http://governor.wy.gov/contactUs/Pages/default.aspx>



**AFRICA:** With the horrors of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, there is very little good news from that continent.

However, we have some **very good news** to report. Unbelievably, as Hammer continues our original work, the project in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, has grown to a new level of achievement. In the past, rural people turned to the extraction of natural resources to survive. Unfortunately, with fast-growing human

populations, many of those valuable resources were disappearing at an alarming rate. Now, in the North Luangwa area, rural people no longer depend on illegal hunting, timber cutting, or charcoal burning, but have alternative, sustainable environmentally sound livelihoods.

### The latest results from North Luangwa:

#### Agriculture:

- 25 more households were trained and assisted in pig and poultry farming.
- 2,500 kilograms (5,500 pounds) of seed potatoes were distributed for planting.
- Hammer, who expanded his knowledge of soil analysis and planting clover as a nitrogen fixing cover crop during his visit to the University of Georgia, has taught these and other practices to the Mpika Agricultural College as well as to local farmers.
- Hammer introduced 20 new beekeeping farms.



#### Conservation Education:

- The children on the Chitulika Primary School planted 1,000 trees.
- Near Mukungule, 800 fruit trees (avocado, lemon, pawpaw, and guava) were planted to provide fruit and to produce seeds for children to take home.
- Children joined The Mpika Climate Change Ambassadors group.

#### Protected Land Acquisition:

- Hammer has worked with the TIKVA Grassroots Foundation, to purchase 12,300 acres of critically important land in the North Luangwa Ecosystem that will be managed and protected by the local community for themselves and the wildlife that depends on it.

#### Rural Health:

- Hammer ensured that the villages where we introduced Rural Healthcare, participated in Universal Child Immunization.
- They also participated in HIV/AIDS policy formation.
- We are acquiring literature on Ebola Prevention Techniques to be distributed to the healthcare workers, many of whom were trained by our project.

**Hammer's Truck:** Thanks to everyone who contributed to Hammer's Truck Fund. We were able to have his existing truck overhauled. With a rebuilt engine and transmission this truck has him back in the villages. Transportation is vital to the success of these programs and Hammer sends hearty thanks for your help.





This good news does not mean that poverty has been eliminated: 64% of Zambians live below the poverty line, and 80% of those are rural people. However, the villagers in this part of the North Luangwa area have a chance of participating in the cottage industries, rural health care, improved agricultural and education that we started in one village 29 years ago.

In Africa and in Zambia, elephant poaching is again on the rise. However, there is no doubt that improving the living standards of rural people also conserves natural resources including elephants.

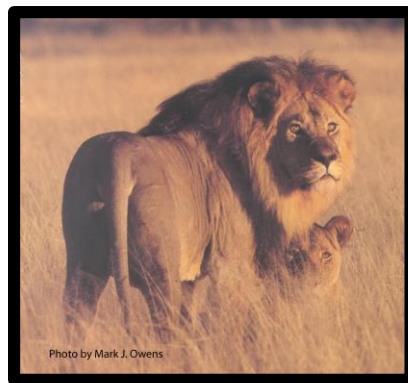
Please help us continue this amazing success story.

Cheers,

*Delia and Mark*

Delia and Mark

**POST SCRIPT -- This letter was ready for print when we got the news that as of Oct 28 2014 the African lion has been listed as an endangered species by the US Fish and Wildlife. I think of the 1970 days when we had lions in our camp almost every day of the rainy season; of Bones, the male whose broken leg we mended, of the Blue Pride raiding our food larder. We recommended then that lions be protected, but in most places it hasn't happened. All of us are witnesses to a time when tigers, elephants, and now lions are endangered. I didn't think I would ever see this day.**



## UPDATES FROM MARY:

**AMAZON.COM – FREE MONEY FOR CONSERVATION!** The OFWC has received almost \$500 generated by donors shopping at Amazon. Just go to [www.owens-foundation.org](http://www.owens-foundation.org) and click on the Amazon link at the bottom of our Home Page and begin your shopping. Amazon will automatically donate 5% of your purchase amount to the Foundation. Presto! It doesn't cost you a penny and it generates funds for conservation. Let your holiday shopping help people and wildlife.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Please let us know of postal or email address. We have experienced some glitches with newsletter mailings. If you notice an error (double posting, etc.), please, let us know.

**DONATION BY CREDIT CARD:** Can be made at [www.owens-foundation.org](http://www.owens-foundation.org) via **DONATE NOW BUTTON** or by calling Tammy Johnson (678-648-1267). Three percent of your donation goes to the credit card company for processing fees. You will be asked for the security code on your credit card as an added level of protection for you.

**FOREIGN CURRENCY DONATIONS:** Must be made by wire transfer, US dollar money order or check - or by credit card (see above for online donations). Thank you for the extra effort!

**LEGACY PLANNING:** Touch the future. Include the OFWC in your Estate Planning.

- **Will, Living Trust or other plan:** Name the OFWC as a recipient of a fixed amount or a % of your estate.
- **Annuity or Life Insurance Policy:** Designate OFWC as the beneficiary.
- **Retirement Plans:** Designate OFWC as a beneficiary of all or a percentage of your Retirement Plan.

**MATCHING DONATIONS:** Some companies match employee and retiree donations to 501(c) (3) nonprofits such as the Owens Foundation. Multiply your giving and empower conservation.

*Owens Foundation, P.O. Box 870530, Stone Mountain, GA 30087, [www.owens-foundation.org](http://www.owens-foundation.org), 678-648-1267*