

## **SWAN VALLEY COMMUNITY FIREWOOD DAY**

*The Seeley Swan Pathfinder – September 24, 2005*

Cooler weather has arrived. For many of us it's the time of year synonymous with replenishing our firewood supply. Community Firewood Day is a yearly event spearheaded by Northwest Connections and Swan Ecosystem Center. Its purpose is to help area residents who may require assistance with their firewood caches. Community members donate timber, equipment and their time. This year's Firewood Day was held September 11<sup>th</sup>.

College students enrolled in Northwest Connections' (NwC) "Landscape and Livelihood" program participated and worked alongside community members. Hoke Hoestedler donated over a logging truckload of wood this year, which students and community members cut, split, delivered and stacked for Condon area residents.

"This is just one more way that students can learn about the role of forests and timber products in the lives of rural residents, comments Melanie Parker, NwC Director. "Our program is all about hands-on conservation learning. The 'Landscape & Livelihood' student gets a taste of rural life from many perspectives. We engage them with biologists, loggers, ranchers, outfitters and homeowners – so that they have an array of perspectives and will apply what they learn in their future careers."

Area resident Lucille Wilhelm received a delivery of firewood and says "its really nice of them to do this. Its handy, they bring it right to your door."

Firewood is still available for local residents who qualify. Contact Swan Ecosystem Center at 754-3137 for details.

Northwest Connections is a non-profit organization linking community, conservation and education. Their base camp is a historic homestead in Swan Valley.