Developer Ordered to Perform Soils Study

DON BARBIERI’S Huckleberry Bay Co. has been ordered to conduct a "hydrogeologic survey" before Bonner County will consider the company’s latest development plans for Priest Lake’s remote Huckleberry Bay.

At a special hearing Feb. 7, members of the Bonner County Planning and Zoning Commission told company representatives that the survey, originally promised two years ago, must be performed before the proposed large-scale development will be considered. The survey will identify site-specific soil types and analyze groundwater flows under the 24 acres set aside for the proposed development’s sewage treatment.

The planning commission’s decision came after extensive testimony by the Selkirk-Priest Basin Association about the potential impact of the development on Priest Lake water quality, along with other problems inherent in the proposal.

SPBA Chairman Bruce Brockway hailed the planning commission’s decision as a prudent one.

“The Commission did the right thing,” said Brockway, although he noted water quality is only one concern the SPBA has with the development. The larger issue is whether Barbieri’s proposal meets the Bonner County Comprehensive Plan requirement that new developments locate in areas with compatible uses. The SPBA contends the giant development Barbieri proposes will bring adverse change upon the character of Huckleberry Bay — and of Priest Lake itself.

The Huckleberry Bay Co. has been

ORW Shot Down in Lake Study Snafu

THE OUTSTANDING Resource Water nomination for Priest Lake has been sidetracked into what may be legislative neverland, after a lake study and management plan proposed by the Idaho Health and Welfare Board became the object of a turf battle between agencies.

The Board in late January issued a proposal to the Idaho Legislature that a Priest Lake water quality study and management plan be enacted instead of the "ORW" status. The proposal asked the Legislature to fund a two-year study of the lake’s water quality, plus a third year to develop a management plan. Funding of $295,000 a year was requested.

However, when the bill containing the Board’s proposal reached the Senate Resources and Environment Committee, Sen. Mary Lou Reed of Coeur d’Alene convinced the committee to take the study away from the Department of

Priest Basin Water Plan Near Passage

A MAJOR PLAN for protecting and enhancing the free-flowing waters of the Priest River Basin appears headed for passage by the Idaho Legislature this session.

The plan is the Priest River Basin component of the Comprehensive State Water Plan, which was completed last year by the Idaho Water Resource Board but is still subject to approval by the Legislature.
A Changing of the Guard

ON ONE SUMMER AFTERNOON in 1987 a group of seven concerned citizens sat on Bruce Brockway’s front porch and decided something had to be done to halt the ongoing degradation of the watersheds within the Priest River Basin. On that day the Selkirk-Priest Basin Association was born.

I was elected chairman and served in that position for three years. Now I’m handing over the reins to Bruce Brockway, and it’s fitting that Bruce replaces me as chairman of the SPBA.

Although I will continue to serve on the SPBA Board of Directors, I resigned as chairman in December because the demands of my new job as Forest Watch coordinator for the Inland Empire Public Lands Council do not allow me enough time to fulfill the duties of chairmanship. Instead of focusing solely on forest practices within the Priest River Basin, I am now working with groups who are monitoring Forest Service activities on every ranger district throughout the Idaho Panhandle and Colville National Forests. It requires a lot of travelling.

Do I regret having to resign the chairmanship? Yes I do. But I feel that a change in leadership is healthy for the SPBA. New leadership will ensure the continued vitality of our group. In his brief tenure as chairman to date, Bruce has already strengthened the organizational structure by designing and establishing permanent committees. I am pleased to report that I will be heading up the forestry committee.

I am committed to remaining an active board member as long as the membership so desires. I believe SPBA is more important than ever before. With a professional staff, a growing membership, the continued commitment of the board and our good fortune in having Bruce Brockway assume the chairmanship, the SPBA will continue to realize its ever-expanding potential.

Playing a role in the formation of the SPBA has provided me with the opportunity to meet and work with many wonderful and committed people, and to participate in issues that are shaping the future of the Priest River Basin. I want to thank the board and the membership for allowing me the privilege and pleasure of serving as its chairman during these formative years. And I look forward to serving on SPBA’s board and committees in the years ahead.

Onwards and upwards,

Barry Rosenberg

I WANT TO THANK Barry Rosenberg for his contributions and commitment to this Association. Barry’s leadership helped turn an idea into a reality. Today, largely because of him, the Selkirk-Priest Basin Association is a major player in the decision-making process regarding environmental issues in this Basin. The Board and the membership recognize and applaud Barry’s effort.

To achieve environmental excellence for the Basin, our efforts will rely in the future on the expertise of our recently established standing committees. These committees are made up of individuals, both directors and members, who bring their interests and skills to bear on the specific committee objectives. Most of you have indicated on your membership form your willingness to participate actively, and the board is currently reviewing the membership list, seeking committee members. SPBA needs your time and expertise.

Our numbers are growing. Our members live both outside of the Basin and within. Each of us must recognize the influence of our Association and the need to join hands in pursuing environmental excellence. It is for this reason that the High Bridge was chosen as the site for our participation in Idaho’s Adopt-A-Highway program (see story page 3). It is my hope the arch of this bridge will symbolize the coming together of all of our members who are committed to the welfare of the entire Basin.

It is my observation that this Association has had to deal from a position of reacting to the activities of other groups and agencies. Given our numbers and financial strength, it is time to move forward to a position of being “proactive.” Our standing committees will develop programs and strategies as we refine our vision for the future of this Basin. The programs developed by our standing committees must promote this vision.

The Priest Basin continues to inspire people — especially young people like John Miller, the Mead High School student who authored the poem “Hanna Flats” on page 4. And we want to pass this inspiring legacy down to succeeding generations, just as we have received it.

As you read through the pages of this issue of Sightlines, I urge you to reflect on the diversity and enormity of the issues our group faces, and the individual commitment we all need to make in order to deal successfully with them. I urge you to join us in reaffirming that commitment to make SPBA stronger and the Basin a model of environmental excellence — today, and for future generations.

Until next time,

Bruce Brockway
**Brockway Succeeds Rosenberg**

**Board Logs Changes**

The SELKIRK-PRIEST Basin Association’s Board of Directors has a new chairman, as founding Director Barry Rosenberg has stepped down and Bruce Brockway, also a founding director, has been voted into the seat.

In other recent changes, Director David Hunt has resigned from the Board and Oldtown resident Kathy Sedlacek has been appointed to that vacancy.

Rosenberg said he relinquished the chairman’s spot with regret; he remains an active member of the Board of Directors. Rosenberg said his new job as Forest Watch Coordinator for the Inland Empire Public Lands Council is simply making too many demands on his time.

Brockway, meanwhile, has launched an ambitious organizational restructuring. (See The Chairman’s Message on page 2 for more from both men.)

Hunt gave notice of his resignation in November, adding “It has been personal-

**Man Suspect In Selkirk Caribou Kill**

A SAGLIE MAN is suspected of shooting a young caribou cow near Sandpoint Nov. 7, striking another blow against the small band of Selkirk caribou struggling for survival.

Charles Eugene McGuire, 32, turned himself in after the shooting, and authorities are citing him as a mitigating factor as they seek penalties far less rigorous than the maximum allowed by law.

There are fewer than 60 caribou in the Selkirk ecosystem — most of them relocated from Canada in an international recovery program — and they are an endangered species protected by federal law. Maximum penalties for killing one are $100,000 and a year in prison.

However, McGuire faces a far smaller penalty. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agent Dean Tresh said McGuire has been issued a notice of violation with a bond of $500. If McGuire chooses not to contest the notice, he will simply forfeit the bond and face no other penalty.

The caribou was killed off Wrenco Loop Road, about seven miles west of Sandpoint and far south of the main herd.

“Why it was here, why it separated from the herd, we have no idea,” said Idaho Conservation Officer Darold Morgan.

Tresh said the suspect claims the shooting was accidental. Although the agent would not discuss McGuire’s statements, he did confirm a report the suspect claims he was out shooting dogs that were chasing wildlife and shot the young caribou by mistake.

Tresh noted the loss of a young cow is hard on the small caribou herd. “We need every animal,” he said.

In the fall of 1989 a caribou was killed by poachers in northeastern Washington. That caribou had worn a radio collar and ear tags as part of the research effort tracking the herd, and the poacher cut off the collar and tags before taking the carcass away. Tresh said his agency is still seeking information in that case.

In the McGuire case, Tresh said, “The man turned himself in and that’s certainly a mitigating circumstance. But we cannot stand for these animals to be killed.”

**SPBA ‘Adopts’ Highway 57**

*WANT TO DO litter duty? The SPBA can use your help.*

SPBA Directors are hoping to achieve a visible improvement within the Basin with participation in the Idaho Transportation Department’s “Adopt-A-Highway” program.

The SPBA has been assigned two miles of State Highway 57 — the north-south artery that leads from Priest River to Priest Lake — in this innovative litter control program.

“Adopt-A-Highway” allows private citizens to support the state’s anti-litter campaign by “adopting” sections of highway and agreeing to keep them clean. It gives organizations like SPBA the responsibility of removing litter from within the adopted section at least four times a year for two years.

SPBA Chairman Bruce Brockway applied to participate in Adopt-A-Highway in November and the group has been assigned the stretch of Highway 57 between mileposts 18.5 and 20.5. This portion includes the High Bridge across the Upper West Branch of the Priest River, and Brockway hopes the impressive arch of the bridge “will serve to symbolize the coming together of those members that are committed to the welfare of the entire Basin.”

SPBA will be organizing the first “litter patrol” for this spring. If you can volunteer, please call Executive Director Chris Bessler at 263-3573.

**Project Symbol:** The High Bridge arch.
John Miller, a senior at Mead High School in Spokane, in December won runner-up honors in The Spokesman-Review outdoor writing contest for his evocative poem, “Hanna Flats.” We’re reprinting it here as an example of the inspiration the Priest Basin provides for our young people. In fact, the remarkable ancient cedar-hemlock grove at Hanna Flats has been an inspiration to John since he was a young child. “I go up to Priest Lake every summer and I remember when I was about eight years old going to Hanna Flats,” he said, explaining how he was introduced to the subject for his poem. Here it is:

Hanna Flats
August fires sacrifice the virgin hemlocks, ponderosas, cedars so huge, three men with arms outstretched could not encircle one.
Yellow demons leap from tree to tree, howl and dance around the offerings, string blazing garlands like wedding wreaths as if raw savagery could possess such beauty.
Their crimson knives etch smoldering epitaphs in ninety-foot trunks.
Chants die with the wind, leave smoky echoes hovering over three acres still green.

Membership soars over 650

Drive Nets 104 New Members

An SPBA membership drive in November brought in 104 new members for the Association, pushing the total membership to an all-time high of more than 650.

“To say that we were surprised and happy by these results would be an understatement,” said Executive Director Chris Bessler. “I think the remarkable returns from our membership drive show two things: The Priest Basin truly does inspire people, and they want to make sure it stays as splendid as it is.”

In addition to new members, more than 70 current members renewed their memberships.

The drive was crafted by SPBA Fundraising Coordinator Claude Morris, and brought in about $4,310 in dues and donations. “The money is critically important,” Bessler said, adding, “One thing we’re learning is there is strength in numbers. Public agencies tend to listen more carefully when SPBA says it represents 650-plus concerned citizens.”

With the SPBA’s numbers growing and its scope of activities constantly expanding, Bessler noted the group’s staff is working to improve communication with members and to marshal more volunteer help.

“In the next few months we’ll be actively recruiting volunteers, based on the information we received on membership forms,” Bessler said. “In the meantime, we can only say thanks for the new and continued support for SPBA. Simply put, it’s the membership that makes SPBA’s accomplishments possible.”

Box below gives new members.

New Logo Captures Chimney Rock

Readers of this issue of the SPBA newsletter may notice something different about the front page — the redesigned logo.

SPBA directors approved the commissioning of an artist to bring more scope and detail to the line drawing of the Priest Basin’s Chimney Rock, which has been used on SPBA’s letterhead and newsletter since the group’s inception.

The landmark feature of the area has come to symbolize the Selkirk-Priest Basin Association’s exceptional natural values and the group’s commitment to protecting and preserving them.

Respected regional artist Christy Hensler was selected for the job. Christy submitted several rough drafts, and, after incorporating suggestions by SPBA’s editorial committee, a final detailed drawing was approved in time for this issue of Sightlines.

“This is the finishing touch for our newsletter,” said SPBA Executive Director Chris Bessler. “Christy’s work is excellent and the professional appearance of Sightlines is greatly improved because of it. We’re really delighted.”

New Members who joined SPBA since November are:

Don Adair
Ben and Barbara Aspen
Bob and Vel Babbitt
Pamela J. Balza
Fred Barden
Norman and Hazel Berg
Stuart and Helen Blackwell
Francis Brink
B.J. and Jean Burgeson
Christel Carlson and Cary Carroll
William and Julie Carroll
Scott Frost and Katherine Childs
Hugh and Louise Collett
Claudia Collins
Bruce Cunningham
Frank and Elsa Dalton
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne W. Eppich
Mr. and Mrs. G. Stanley Fergin
Earl and Janet Forsman
Ralph and Sue Fulp
Dorothy V. Georja
Vincent P. Gerber
Maureen Gerow
Mildred L. Gibbs
Nancy S. Gillespie
T. Dean Gillund
Larry and Frances Goodrow
Doris and Vernon Gunn
Wesley and Gerlie Hanson
Dale and Katherine Harrison
Dr. Bruce and Yvonne Hille
Willard J. Hinchy
Don and Gloria Holt
Harold and Jewell Hubbell
Richard and Audrey Hungate
Mr. and Mrs. A. Ray Hunter
Tom Husbys
Jean Johns
Lynn Landor
Agnes Lesage
Doug Link
Gehrig and Lucille Loree
John Luppert
Riek Lyman
J.D. McLaughlin
Robin Merrill
Nancy E. Nelson
Roy T. Olson
Jim and Reogene Peterson
Tom and Sylvia Pfeifer
Wallace and Marilyn Prestbo
Don and Carolyn Priest
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Pruisa
Thomas Renk
Steve and Julie Rice
Dwain Robertson
Ted Runberg
Paul and Monica Schnader
Olay and Jane Smistad
Issac L. Smith
Rex W. Smith
Doris and Ken Sutherland
Jesse and Gertrude Thomas
Elizabeth Thomson
Jeff Van Leuven
H. Neil Von Holt
Will Whelan
Lois T. Wool
Harold D. Williams
Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson

New Logo Captures Chimney Rock
The Old-Growth Quest Comes Home

SPBA helps inventory Basin's last remaining ancient forests

WHEN MOST PEOPLE walk through an old-growth forest they are awestruck by the huge, ancient trees that give the sensation of entering a living cathedral.

But as Selkirk-Priest Basin Association volunteers have been learning this winter, defining an old-growth forest is not so easy as saying “awesome trees.”

The SPBA has been working with the Spokane Audubon Society, Sierra Club and the Priest Lake Ranger District to inventory and map the remnants of the Basin’s old-growth forests, as the conservation groups prepare to “sign off” on the district’s plan for preserving the last of the big trees.

Big trees alone do not an old-growth forest make, participants are learning. The major types of old-growth forests on the Priest Lake district are composed of cedar and hemlock trees. According to the working definition for these species, old-growth forest would include at least 10 trees per acre that are 150 years old and at least 21 inches in diameter — but that’s not the only criteria.

Additionally, an old-growth forest would be judged by the amount of “decadence” or decay in mature trees, the variety and age of understory trees, the number of snags present, the percentage of canopy closure and the “basal area,” or overall mass of timber in the grove.

In fact, it is conceivable the district may devise its own, unique definition of old growth that takes into account elevation, exposure, climate and other factors specific to the Priest Basin. Scientists are realizing that one broad definition for old growth cannot suit the many diverse habitat types; in Montana, for instance, a pair of conservationists have come up with a different definition of old growth for each of the state’s 10 national forests.

The inventory comes as a result of a one-year moratorium on logging in old-growth forests, ordered in March 1990 by Idaho Panhandle National Forests Supervisor Bill Morden. The forest-wide moratorium was declared after the SPBA challenged a proposal to log 800 acres of old growth near the Upper Priest River. A huge membership response was instrumental in defeating that proposal, and bringing attention to bear on old-growth issues throughout the forest.

According to the IPNF plan, at least 10 percent of the forest must be maintained as old growth. The moratorium on logging in old forests was declared to give the forest time to inventory its remaining old growth.

What has become evident is that most of the old growth has been cut — in fact, none of the IPNF’s seven ranger districts have 10 percent of their forest lands in conscientious effort to identify and protect the old growth on the district. It’s possible the old-growth plan could be finished by summer, said Hempleman.

“They’re showing good faith. It might be the only forest in the Northwest that has an old-growth resolution,” she said, adding “That would be amazing.”
In the Wind...

A compilation of the curious, the humorous, the noteworthy and other tidbits of interest.

Magazine ranked Priest Lake as the 66th toughest place in the West to make reservations for a summer outing. Overall, Idaho recreational sites had more than 2.57 million visitors in 1990, an all-time record. The news is another indication that tourism, a "soft" industry, offers as much economic benefit as the extractive industries which scar the environment.

So What's The Issue?

The townspeople of Orient, Wash., have a problem — or two. Orient citizens take their municipal water from Deer Creek, the watershed where the Kettle Falls Ranger District is planning to log 6.6 million feet of timber and build five miles of road. The logging threatens to further pollute the town's water, which, warns the local water company, has already fallen below federal standards partly due to past logging in the drainage. Kettle Falls District Ranger Bruce Bernhardt defended the proposed timber cutting with classic bureaucratic. "The issue is not whether there'll be an impact on water quality," he said, "the issue is whether or not we are within standards." Translation: We'll pollute the water, but at least it will be legal.

ORW Snafu

Continued from page 1

Health and Welfare and give it to the Clean Lakes Coordinating Council. Reed contended the Council, created by her own 1989 Clean Lakes Act, is made up of North Idaho county officials and should oversee the study and plan.

Unfortunately, as Sightslines went to press there was no proposal on the table to finance the study through the Council. When SPBA asked an independent legislator, Rep. Jim Stiochaff of Sandpoint, for his assessment, he replied: "As far as I'm concerned, what we've done is eliminate the possibility of getting any money this year for Priest Lake."

SPBA supported the Priest Lake ORW nomination, and the directors had felt the Health and Welfare Board's proposal for a water quality study and plan was a positive step. Board Chairman David Mead suggested once the study and plan were complete the lake could be nominated again for ORW status.

Sources involved in the issue said Reed's decision to scuttle the Health and Welfare proposal was likely the result of a tug-of-war over which agency should administer the study. The Board proposal would have created a Priest Lake-area citizen committee to oversee the study, but Bonner County Commissioner Jim McNall, chairman of the Clean Lakes Coordinating Council, said his group already exists to fill a similar role.

SPBA directors expressed disappointment in the turn of events.

"This sounds like a problem between politicians," said SPBA Director Gordon West. The bottom line, he said, is not who oversees the water quality study but that it simply be performed. "We had the momentum going with the Health and Welfare Board proposal, and now we may end up with nothing."

Priest Lake was nominated for Outstanding Resource Water status last summer by David Hunt, a former SPBA director, under a new Idaho law which provides for the special designation. As an ORW, Priest Lake would be given the highest level of water quality protection, and new activities which might lower water quality would be prohibited.

SPBA members are urged to write key officials to urge that the lake study and management plan not be neglected. See The Letter Drop for details.
A N IDAHO Fish and Game Commission proposal to open up several drainages within the Selkirk Mountains Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone to black bear hunting has been withdrawn, thanks in part to strenuous opposition by the Selkirk-Priest Basin Association.

In its five-year Bear Management Plan the IDFG had, for the first time in years, proposed allowing hound hunters access to the drainages within the zone. The proposal was met with the prospect of legal action by the SPBA.

As a result of SPBA and other groups' opposition, IDFG withdrew the proposal. SPBA informed the commission by letter that federal laws protecting threatened species prohibit "harassment" of the Selkirk grizzly. The Association argued that hounds could not be expected to know the difference between black and grizzly bears once given the opportunity to run through habitat occupied by both.

SPBA also argued that allowing hound hunting within the recovery zone would result in more illegal shootings — the primary cause of death of grizzlies.

Informed sources said IDFG was actually looking for a reason to withdraw the proposal, which had been urged by a politically strong hound-hunting fraternity, but was constrained to recommend in favor of increased access because of the absence of substantial public opposition. SPBA's letter helped change all that. "It's been suggested to me that the sheer size of SPBA's membership was influential in counteracting the hound hunters' lobbying efforts," SPBA Director Dave Boswell said.

"To Fish and Game's credit, I believe they really didn't think this proposal was a good idea but, before our letters, they didn't have enough public opposition to offset the hound-hunters support. It was the size of our membership that spelled the difference, I think. Every one of our members can pat themselves on the back for making that difference in this case."

At last count there were only a handful of female grizzlies of breeding age in the U.S. Selkirk population.

The only subadult female in the entire ecosystem was killed by hunters in September (see Sightlines, Autumn 1990). That killing seriously jeopardized any expectation of future recruitment to the population.

SPBA has repeatedly urged officials to limit all access to grizzly habitat during hunting season and supports mandatory hunter education programs, elimination of the spring bear hunt in Region One and stiffer penalties for poachers.

See The Letter Drop on page 8.

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**Water Plan**

*Continued from page 1*

The plan will provide varying types of protection for waterways within the 913-square-mile Priest River Basin. Under the legislation which authorized the plan, certain highly valued waterways may be protected by designation as either natural or recreational rivers. The "natural" designation prohibits construction of dams, dredging, streambed alteration and mineral extraction; the more lenient "recreational" designation allows conditional streambed alterations for construction of bridges and culverts, installation of fisheries enhancement structures and construction of water diversion works.

The plan stipulates that the Upper Priest River from the international boundary to Upper Priest Lake, Upper Priest Lake itself and the Thoroughfare are designated as state natural rivers. All or parts of Hughes Fork, Rock Creek, Lime Creek, Cedar Creek, Trapper Creek and Granite Creek are designated as state recreational rivers, as is the Priest River from the Priest Lake outlet structure to McAbee Falls.

The plan also identifies Upper Priest Lake's westslope cutthroat fishery as Idaho's only remaining population of pure-strain adfluvial trout — that is, those species of trout which rear themselves in tributary streams before entering the lake, an evolutionary adaptation which helps them avoid predation. One SPBA objection to the plan was that, while it protects main-stem tributaries of the lake, the plan fails to include many small sidestreams also used by the cutthroat fishery.

Nonetheless, SPBA directors voiced strong support for the water plan as a tool for protecting Basin waters. In a Jan. 30 letter to Sen. Laird Noh, chairman of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee, SPBA Chairman Bruce Brockway urged passage. Brockway served on the citizen advisory committee for the plan, and praised the process by which the plan was created. Brockway also noted the plan will enhance water flows on the lower Priest River.

"For years, since the construction of the outlet structure on Priest Lake, the lower Priest River has been reduced to a trickle during the summer. The fisheries are nonexistent," Brockway said.
pursuing various development plans since 1987, when the company purchased some 1,500 acres surrounding the Bay. Although the company has sold lots in two subdivisions — Canoe Point and Sandy Shores — a robust public outcry has so far forestalled the company’s plans for high-density development.

Last spring the Bonner County Commissioners denied permits for a large-scale development that would have included 109 single-family homes plus a conceptual plan for up to 170 living units with a marina, lodge, resort, restaurant and golf course.

Not to be deterred, in mid October the company came back with the plan currently under consideration. This proposal would create 100 dwelling units — split into 60 cluster units along the Bay, 13 common beach single-family lots and 27 upper terrace view lots — plus a store, public boat docks and gas pumps, and fire station, all placed on 400 acres. Some 700 acres of the company’s land would be held back for future development which the company has not specified.

Although SPBA members and other speakers at the Feb. 7 hearing questioned whether such intensive development should be located along Huckleberry Bay at all, much of the testimony zeroed in on the impact it might have on the lake’s water quality.

SPBA Director Gordon West, in an extended presentation which included charts and graphs, sold the planning commission that water clarity in the lake already may be declining. Secchi disk data compiled by the Priest Lake Monitors indicate a possible decrease in transparency in lake waters — which should "raise a red flag" when considering more high-density development.

West also used an existing survey of Bonner County soil types to show the planning commission that soils within the area of the development’s sewage treatment plant are likely to be very permeable. According to the soil survey, the area is composed of two feet of topsoil overlaying "glacial outwash" — a course gravel which allows rapid migration of groundwater into the lake.

James Kimball, a professional engineer who has property at the lake and specializes in environmental engineering, provided key testimony indicating the land-application treatment system proposed by the Huckleberry Bay Company may allow wastewater nutrients to seep into the lake. Such nutrients would create additional algae growth in Huckleberry Bay, diminish water clarity and speed up the eutrophication of Priest Lake. Kimball specifically called for a hydrogeologic survey of the site.

The SPBA now intends to ensure that an impartial and accurate study is performed.

Director West noted a potential conflict of interest exists with the Huckleberry Bay Co. in charge of contracting the study. He warned the SPBA will take a comprehensive look at the study and analysis.

"We’re not going to let an insufficient study slide through," he promised. "Ultimately, the water quality of Priest Lake may be at stake."

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**Selkirk-Priest Basin Association**

P.O. Box 181

Coolin, ID 83821

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**THE LETTER DROP**

Grizzlies, again. The Selkirk grizzly population continues to feel pressure from timber and hunting interests. Despite a spate of illegal killings, agencies vacillate between needed protections and special interest pressure to access the grizzly’s habitat. Write IDFG Director Jerry Conley, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707 and Chris Servheen, USFWS Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, c/o University of Montana, Missoula, MT and tell them the Selkirk grizzly needs the benefit of every management decision to assure its survival.


Water Quality. State Sen. Mary Lou Reed moved a water quality study and management plan for Priest Lake from the Department of Health and Welfare to the Clean Lakes Coordinating Council. The study was proposed in place of Outstanding Resource Water status for the lake. Write Reed and Council Coordinator Shireene Sementi to emphasize the study and plan must not get lost in the shuffle. Ask what plans exist to execute the study and reapply for ORW. Write: Sen. Reed, 103 S. 4th, Suite 250, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814; and Clean Lakes Coordinating Council, 2195 Ironwood Court, Cd’A, ID 83814.