

sight lines

SELKIRK-PRIEST BASIN ASSOCIATION/ FOR SENSIBLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

October 1988

SPBA Announces Major Conservation Campaign

The Selkirk-Priest Basin Association is undertaking a major conservation campaign to preserve the largest remaining contiguous old growth forest in the Priest Lake area. The old growth forest is threatened by timber harvest proposed in a U.S. Forest Service 10 year management plan for the Upper Priest South area in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The "concept" calls for clearcutting 10% of this old growth stand this decade. Future considerations call for clearcutting 10% of the stand every decade for the next 100 years resulting in the total liquidation of this approximately 700 acre old growth forest.

Called the "Upper Priest Old Growth Preservation Project," the campaign will focus attention on an existing old growth timber stand adjacent to the Upper Priest River which is currently under Congressional consideration for Wild and Scenic rivers status.

SPBA Chairman Barry Rosenberg said the group will make the preservation of this old growth stand a major priority.

"Residents and visitors alike readily acknowledge that nothing comparable exists in the Priest Lake area," Rosenberg said.

SPBA directors cited numerous reasons to retain this natural heritage:

- Old growth forests contain genetic reservoirs essential to perpetuation of productive forests and if destroyed, new forest growth cannot be long sustained.

- Its size provides specific habitat to old growth dependent species, many of which are vital links in the forest ecosystem. Diversity cannot be sustained in small fragmented stands.

- The value of the stand is enhanced by its location along the Wild and Scenic Upper Priest River corridor.

- A single road through the center of the stand provides the public with easy access for enjoyment of this living museum and fast-disappearing natural heritage.

- It is one of the most beautiful forests remaining in the region.

SPBA directors also found it disturbing that the "concept" proposes reconstructing the old Cedar Creek fire road in order to begin to harvest old growth timber in that drainage. The road is located in an area which has highly erosive soils and a history of mass failures.

"The potential for adverse impacts to fisheries habitat in Cedar Creek and Upper Priest River is very high," Rosenberg said.

The directors did, however, endorse the proposal to extend Upper Priest Falls trail along the river to Upper Priest Lake.

SPBA is still reviewing the plan's proposal to begin harvest and road building activities within the Ruby Creek roadless area.

We encourage all those concerned to submit comments by October 31 to:

Al Collotzi, District Ranger
Priest Lake Ranger Station
HCR 5, Box 207
Priest River, ID 83856

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Chairman's Message

Greetings Members:

Our numbers are growing. Now is the time to measure our effectiveness. We are being challenged by two critical issues which demand our membership's action.

We need to mount a substantial letter-writing campaign in support of the Idaho Fish and Game's recommendation of 150 foot lot width for the proposed Huckleberry development, and in opposition to the Forest Service's "concept" to begin liquidation of the last large stand of old growth timber in the Priest River Basin.

This is what the SPBA is all about! An active membership responding to issues and activities which could effect the environmental well being of the Selkirk-Priest Basin.

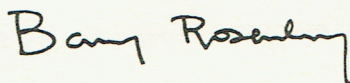
We are deeply committed to the preservation of this last large remaining stand of old growth in the Priest River Basin and we've started a campaign called the "Upper Priest Old Growth Preservation Project." We have already gotten strong media coverage (a front page story in the Spokesman-Review and full coverage on all local TV networks) and we have also distributed petitions throughout the area. Support is coming from local and national conservation groups. We need a strong coordinated effort to counter the growing pressures put on the Forest Service by the timber industry to cut this irreplaceable resource.

This project is going to demand a major effort ~~on the money~~. We are creating a special fund to support this old growth preservation project. We are reluctant to ask for contributions so soon after our recent membership drive, but we feel compelled to do so in order to save this irreplaceable resource. Please give what you can.

The Board looks forward to meeting all the members at our first annual meeting on November 5. Hope you can attend.

Please write letters and contribute to our cause. Let's make "Sensible Resource Management" a reality for the Selkirk-Priest River Basin!

Sincerely,



Barry Rosenberg

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

SELKIRK-PRIEST BASIN ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1988

PRIEST LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HWY. 57, MILEPOST 27

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1:00 p.m. Welcome
1.15 Introduction of Board Members
1:30 Guest Speaker - Dr. John Osborn, President,
Inland Empire Public Lands Council
(tentative)
2:00 Election of Board Members (two positions)
2:15 Break (Refreshments)
2:30 Slide Show - "Timber Harvesting in the Basin"
2:50 Overview of the Selkirk-Priest Basin
Association.
3:10 Group Development of association priorities
for 1988-89.

If you plan to attend, please drop a note to Brude Brockway, HCR 5 Box 78, Priest River, ID 83856.

Please mail proxy to: SPBA, P.O. Box 181, Coolin, ID 83821

PROXY

I, _____, hereby nominate for the Board of Directors, Selkirk-Priest Basin Association, the following:

Position #1 _____ Position #2 _____
(nominee) (nominee)

Kate Batey and Jules Gindraux have been nominated and endorsed by the Board for Positions One and Two, respectively. Members wishing to cast their votes in favor at the Board's nominees otherwise authorizing the Board to vote by proxy, please indicate below:

_____ YES _____ NO

This proxy, by not being returned completed before Nov. 1, 1988, shall vest the vote of the recipient member in the Board of Directors.

X _____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Terms expiring:

1988 - Jules Gindraux, Kate Batey

1989 - John Crane, Bruce Brockway, David Boswell

1990 - Barry Rosenbery, Bill Egolf

Facts and Update of Huckleberry Bay Development

Before and during three public hearings held by the Bonner County Planning and Zoning Commission concerning a conditional use application for the proposed development at Huckleberry Bay, our association emphasized its objective of "Sensible Resource Management," that it is not anti-development and that its concern is to preserve and improve the environmental integrity of Priest Lake, on which the local economy depends.

Members of the association have done considerable research and have consulted with the developer, state and local agencies and with various professionals. This effort of the SPBA led in part to positive, constructive dialogue amongst all parties and resulted in several beneficial revisions made by the developer to his original proposal. The revisions included riparian protection, improved setbacks from the shoreline, erosion control, and road improvements. A particular improvement is an environmentally superior contained sewer lagoon, supplanting the originally planned drainfield system.

Although these improvements are welcome, a major issue not resolved was the Department of Fish and Game recommendation to "cluster" dwellings away from the lakefront to best avoid harmful environmental impacts, or as a less desirable alternative, if dwellings were to be on the lakefront, it recommended that lot widths should be at least 150 feet.

Bonner County Department of Planning and Development concurred with department of Fish and Game recommendation for "clustering," or 150 feet minimum lot width. In fact, 59% of Idaho Department of Lands developed shoreline is in lot widths of 150 feet or more.

At the final hearing on August 11, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the developer's conditional use application, including several concessions agreed to by the developer, but it arbitrarily (seemingly in deference to the developer's financial concern) recommended 100 foot lot widths, contrary to Fish and Game recommendations.

It is felt that the recommendation is improper and if allowed to stand, will establish a dangerous precedent for the future when large scale adjacent developments are planned.

The Selkirk-Priest Basin Association, the Priest Lake Coalition, and Mr. J.W. Knopp have filed an appeal to the Bonner County Commissioners to not accept the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation, by reason that the decision is not in the public interest having ignored sound, expert recommendations of the department of Fish and Game, a governmental agency entrusted by the public with safeguarding our wildlife environment.

Continued on page 4

These issues of Sightlines are sent only to our membership and associates. Should you know of others who wish to receive Sightlines and be informed of activities and issues affecting the Priest River Basin, please encourage them to join.

| | Individual Dues | Joint Dues |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00 |
| Senior Limited Income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 |

I wish to contribute to the Upper Priest Old Growth Preservation Project
☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$30 ☐ Other _____

Mail your dues and contributions to: SPBA, P.O. Box 181, Coolin, Idaho 83821

Mailing lists maintained courtesy of Roy's Electronic Service, Coolin, Idaho.

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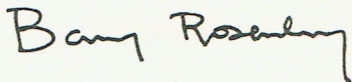
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Sincerely,



Barry Rosenberg

Continued from page 3

The appeal will be heard at a public hearing scheduled for October 18, 1988 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bonner County Court house, before the Bonner County Commissioners, who will make the appeal determination.

It is IMPORTANT that you express your concerns for the overall welfare of Priest Lake and the protection of its future by writing as early as possible, before October 18 to:

Bonner County Commissioners:
Wayne Benner, Dean Stevens, Jim McNall
Bonner County Court House
Sandpoint, ID 83864

OLD GROWTH WORKSHOP - CHRIS MASER

Spokane Falls Community College - Saturday, October 15, 1988

On October 15, the Spokane Audubon Society, the Sierra Club and other local environmental groups are sponsoring an all day workshop with Mr. Maser on the Old Growth Forest. Chris Maser is well known for his research on Old Growth as a wildlife biologist for the BLM. He is now a lecturer, consultant and author (The Redesigned Forest, and The Forest Primeval). As a featured speaker at the Audubon Society's National Conference in 1987 he received a standing ovation. We are extremely fortunate to be able to bring Mr. Maser to Spokane -- his topic here will be the Old Growth eco system and its importance to our forests.

The conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the conference rooms at the Spokane Falls Community College student union building #17.

To register, please send your name, address and telephone number along with the \$4.00 registration fee to Susan Hempleman, N. 3110 Sheridan Ct., Spokane, WA 99205.

Selkirk-Priest Basin Assc.
P.O. Box 181
Coolin, Idaho 83821



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