



LONELY WILDERNESS. *Hiker walks in Salmo-Priest old-growth, the only Basin area proposed for wilderness.*

Wilderness Bill 'Deficient'

IDAHO Congressman Larry LaRocco has issued his version of an Idaho wilderness bill, and conservationists around the state have weighed in on its merits — and deficiencies.

"It meets all of our worst expectations," quipped SPBA Director David Boswell, "and I'm not hearing very much to recommend it from anyone."

At a meeting of representatives from a number of Inland Northwest conservation groups April 12 in Spokane, few offered encouraging words.

Continued on back page

Fate of Huck Bay Remains On Hold

THE FATE OF the Huckleberry Bay Co.'s plan for a large-scale development on Priest Lake remained on hold through April, pending an on-site inspection by Bonner County Commissioners.

The public comment period closed March 10, following a Feb. 24 public hearing before the commissioners. The hearing was held as part of an appeal by the Huckleberry Bay Co. following the unanimous rejection of the development by the county Planning and Zoning Commission last August.

The company is proposing to develop 41 residential dwellings on 220 of the 1,565 acres it owns along the bay. Although company officials have not revealed specific long-range development plans, they have said they want to develop up to 313 homes, a store, marina, gas pumps and golf course — in effect creating a town more than twice as large as the current lake communities of Coolin or Nordman.

Although the chief argument by SPBA is that such a large development would destroy the natural character of the lake, pose water pollution dangers, and violate the county comprehensive plan, much of the testimony at the Feb. 24 hearing centered on the cost to taxpayers of providing services to such a remote location.

Huckleberry Bay attorneys and accountants contended that revenues generated by property taxes would more than pay for the additional costs incurred by the county in maintaining schools, roads and public safety services.

However, the SPBA subsequently contracted planning consultant Abby Byrne to review the HBC projections. She concluded them to be overly optimistic and based on underlying assumptions that lack adequate documentation.

Continued on back page

HELP FOR THE WILDLIFE: SPBA COMMITTEE LAUNCHES PROGRAM TO PURCHASE INFRARED CAMERA EQUIPMENT

SPBA knows a way to turn \$500 into **SPBA Wants Basin Animals to 'Say Cheese'** to share in a program with the Idaho

\$3,000, and provide a substantial helping hand to Priest Basin wildlife, to boot. But it will take the help of members.

The \$500 is needed to provide a "match" to a \$2,500 grant which Forest Service biologists Tim Layser and Alan Dohmen have secured for the purchase of five infrared cameras that will be used to document the wildlife in the Basin.

The cameras are installed in remote areas and use an infrared heat sensor to photograph wildlife which can be otherwise impossible to document, such as grizzly, lynx, wolf or fisher. They provide an especially powerful tool to prove the existence of rare animals which have special management needs.

The two biologists originally proposed

Department of Fish and Game to spend \$5,000 for up to 10 of the cameras. Although Layser and Dohmen wrote a successful grant for \$2,500 under the federal "Challenge Cost-Share" program, the IFG was unable to procure its share of the funding. Now, under the rules of the grant, if the Forest Service does not

Continued on page 3

Chairman's Message

A Renewed Ethic of Stewardship

IT SEEMS we in the SPBA are often taking on the timber industry or other "big guys" on environmental challenges with big consequences. These are expensive battles that polarize communities and cause fear and frustration on all sides. They are a measure of the fast-moving and large-scale changes within our culture and society.

But there is a new paradigm emerging among the timber industry's small operators — that is, those small in volume and profits but big in principle and vision. This paradigm is called stewardship, and it is not so much new as reborn. Stewardship was once a way of life for people who were rooted to their land. Liquidation and noncontinuous sustained yield could not support a family that could not move.

But the industrial era brought mobility and an ever-quicken pace in the harvest of our timber lands. It also cut our traditional roots to the land, the physical necessity for people to be intimate with their land. We have consequently developed a culture based on mobility and speed, a culture of change, truly a *non-culture*. Thousands of jobs can be — and frequently are — "trimmed" by the stroke of a CEO's pen. Thousands of stunted roots are "trimmed" for corporate expediency. This has become our national culture.

The timber industry is historically rootless. The early function of logging was to clear land for farming, providing materials for the house and barn as a bonus. With the industrial era came the need for large quantities of raw materials. Logging became an engine of frontier exploitation, regularly displacing its work force as it depleted its way West.

The Northwest held such a vast supply of timber that logging temporarily lost its transient nature and became a culture, however shallow rooted. Now the frontier is gone and the engine is sputtering. Big industry still has the pedal to the floor and will take what it can, then move on. This time, however,



many companies are moving on to new economic pursuits as they liquidate timber lands and abandon timbering for more profitable enterprises.

In these changing times, many who have rooted here are sloughing off the old attitudes and methods of the exploiters. They are people who own 10 or 100 acres that they intend to stay on and take care of. These are the new stewards who will sustain and be sustained by the land again, though in a way different from the farmers of the past.

What we have largely lost, however, is the native knowledge of how to use the forest without using it up. Many of the "homesteaders" who move onto their dream property are unwittingly abusing it by ill-educated actions. Sometimes no action proves to be as detrimental as bad action.

Many people are landowners who want to pursue good stewardship for the purposes of both protecting the environment and promoting an ethic of sustainability. Towards this end, this issue of *Sightlines* kicks off a regular new feature, The Good Steward. In it you will find bits of information from professionals and landowners experienced in caring for the land. Look for it on page 3 — and in future issues of *Sightlines*.

In addition to taking care of our lands we must also learn to be stewards of our community. We need to replace the cut-and-run nonculture with a climate of sustainable nondegrading business activities that take advantage of our area's riches. SPBA's Economic Development Committee is working hard to find ways to create this climate. You'll be seeing more attention given to this important matter in the Summer issue of *Sightlines*, and following issues.

H. Bruce Brockway

Bruce Brockway
SPBA Chairman

Priest Lake Management Plan Team Making Headway

THE PRIEST LAKE Study is rolling along. The project manager is Glen Rothrock, a limnologist with the Department of Environmental Quality, and he and volunteers are now accumulating data.

The Idaho Legislature was again supportive, with an appropriation of \$161,000 for year two of what is hoped to be a three-and-a-half-year study. The EPA is also expected to contribute \$50,000, which would bring the project close to full funding for the first half.

Preliminary data collection has focused on tributary streams, as they are

now in the runoff stage. High flows carry the largest amounts of pollution in the form of nutrients and sediment. This reconnaissance phase of the study is showing some phosphorus levels that are somewhat higher than Rothrock had expected. The streams will be prioritized for more intense scrutiny in phase two, beginning October 1, 1993.

Groundwater study sites have been scoped by a team of experts and the Granite/Reeder and Kalispel Bay areas have been chosen to receive the most attention.

PLMP team meetings, which have

always been open to the public, are beginning to attract good attendance. Rothrock has a talent for describing his science in a clear and interesting manner, and every meeting is an education.

The next two meetings are scheduled for June 13 and Sept. 19; both will be at the Priest Lake Elementary School at 1 p.m.

Volunteers are still needed, including someone to enter data into the computer, stream survey assistants, and people willing to auger shallow groundwater monitoring wells. Interested persons should call Glen at DEQ, 208/667-3524.

Lawsuit Still Pending

Decision awaited; state proposes Big Cat sale

SIX MONTHS. That's how long SPBA has been waiting for a decision from First District Court Judge Craig Kosonen on the issue of the group's standing to sue Idaho's Land Board over mismanagement of school trust lands.

Nonetheless, SPBA attorneys remain optimistic despite the long delay.

"We're not going to push the judge to render a hasty decision," said Dave Boswell, one of four attorneys on the group's case. "We have to believe Judge Kosonen is taking time to write a well-reasoned opinion. That's encouraging, we think, because the Land Board's position on the issue collides head-on with sound legal reasoning."

Meanwhile, snows are slowly leaving the remote Trapper Creek area where the state began road construction and timber cutting activities on the Lower Green Bonnet sale last fall.

Implementation of the Lower Green Bonnet sale represents the virtually complete deforestation of the entire 12,500-

acre Trapper Creek drainage.

And, as predicted, the Land Board is now looking at other Priest Lake watersheds in its quest to continue unsustainable levels of supply to the state's big timber interests. With much of the state land already heavily logged, the state is now proposing to log areas directly within the scenic viewshed of Priest Lake.

"By the time this issue of *Sightlines* goes to press, we expect to have presented testimony at a Town Hall meeting in Priest River on the Big Cat timber sale," said Law Fund attorney Larry Ashcraft of Boise.

The Big Cat sale is planned for the area between Hunt Creek and Cougar Creek, with new road scars and extensive cutting taking place within one-half mile of the lakeshore, on a highly visible hillside just above the Eastshore Road.

The meeting on Big Cat was called only after Ashcraft prevailed at April's Land Board meeting in Boise — albeit begrudgingly on the Board's part — to have public input considered.

SPBA Says 'Welcome' to New Ranger

KENT DUNSTAN is the new ranger for the Priest Lake Ranger District, replacing recently reassigned Al Collotzi.

Dunstan is a 1968 graduate of New Mexico State University and has served with the Forest Service in a variety of posts in the western states. He comes to the Priest Basin from the Avery District of the Panhandle National Forest, where he served as ranger since 1988.

In a meeting with SPBA board members, Dunstan explained the "waves of the future" are watershed improvement in the Basin, planning for future increases in recreational demands on the forest

and shifting to new low-impact timber harvest techniques. Dunstan explained the timber cut here will never be what it was, and there will be substantially less cutting than the forest plans of six or eight years ago called for. He stated that degraded areas will be protected.

Dunstan said he seeks serious dialog with SPBA, other groups and the general public to gain a dynamic approach to issues such as old-growth protection, wildlife protection, fire suppression and timber salvage. "We need to take a bigger look and better replicate what nature does," the new ranger said.

Wildlife Cameras

Continued from page 1

find a partner for the program by Sept. 30, it will lose the \$2,500 already earmarked for the camera purchase.

"This is too great an opportunity to let slip by, so we're asking our members to help provide the match that will rescue the grant," said Wildlife Committee Chair Chris Bessler. "If only 10 members

will contribute \$50 each, we'll be able to take a giant step toward compiling incontrovertible data we can use to protect our Basin's rare wildlife."

If SPBA can come up with the \$500 from members, the Wildlife Committee will look for grant sources to purchase additional cameras next year. "Ultimately we need 20 cameras to enable us to completely survey an area. But we're

The Good Steward

IDOL Provides Variety of Aid to Forest Owners

by Dennis Clark, Service Forester
Idaho Department of Lands

IN 1992 there were 4,300 logging operations on private land in Idaho, with a harvest of 733 million board feet. Bonner County had 1,200 of these operations, for a harvest of 80 million board feet. The Forest Practices Act applies to all these lands as well as those of state and federal ownership.

The Idaho Department of Lands administers the Forest Stewardship Program to encourage good stewardship of private forestlands. Topics within a management plan include fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, soil and water resources maintenance and improvement, wetlands, threatened and endangered species protection, recreation, and aesthetic opportunities, and forest management and timber harvesting for maintenance and enhancement of forest productivity.

A variety of cost-share projects are available to stewardship landowners to meet a portion of the costs of approved projects.

A week-long workshop for teachers and landowners will develop skills and knowledge needed for proper land stewardship. This will take place at the University of Idaho's Clark Fork field station from July 26-31. For more information, call the Idaho Department of Lands at 208/263-5104.

pretty sure we can write a successful grant for next year, especially if we can show concrete results this year."

Donations to this project will go into a dedicated fund to be used only for the camera purchase. Mark your donation for the Wildlife Camera Project and mail to: SPBA, P.O. Box 1809, Priest River, ID 83856. If you need more information, call Chris Bessler at 208/263-3573 days.

Wilderness

Continued from page 1

The meeting was attended by officials of SPBA, the Wilderness Society, Idaho Conservation League, Inland Empire Public Lands Council, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Kootenai Environmental Alliance, Forest Watch, the Endangered Species Coalition and others.

"We all pretty much agreed that the bill could not be endorsed without major, sweeping changes," Boswell said.

"It's not possible to find solutions without knowing what the problem is," Boswell said. "Mr. LaRocco apparently thinks discrete boundary lines and acreage counts are a solution for species decline, watershed devastation, ecosystem dysfunction and widespread impoverishment of our region's biology."

Boswell said creating scattered islands of wilderness — chosen solely for political expedients — without consideration of recognized scientific concepts such as ecosystem linkages, recolonization corri-

dors, population viability and genetic variability shows LaRocco's ignorance of the landscape-level problems that beset the Selkirk-Priest Basin.

"The Basin is the biological reservoir on which much of the hope for the state's future biological condition relies," Boswell said, adding that LaRocco virtually overlooked its importance.

"In the Basin, only 19,000 acres of the Salmo-Priest addition are proposed for wilderness. That's about a tenth of the roadless acres in the Basin area," Boswell said. "Releasing 90 percent of these species-rich areas to logging is like burning the rare book section of the forest's genetic library. What kind of public policy is that? Where's the science?"

Others at the April 12 meeting expressed similar dismay about the bill.

Dan Funsch of Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Liz Sedler of Sandpoint Forest Watch said they saw no sense in wasting time and energy attempting to reform the bill. "We're a million miles from anywhere," said Sedler.

Huckleberry Bay

Continued from page 1

The Feb. 24 hearing was held before a crowd of more than 150 people at Sandpoint's Community Hall. The majority of testimony opposed the development, but for the first time a number of respondents supported the HBC position. In a mailing to property owners around the lake prior to the hearing, Huckleberry Bay Co. had offered to transport to the hearing individuals willing to testify in the company's behalf.

County commissioners have said they

will not set a date for issuing a decision until they visit the development site. As *Sightlines* went to press, however, none of the three had yet visited the site and the issue was on no coming agenda for the commissioners.

SPBA was represented at the hearing by Sandpoint attorney Paul Vogel; the group has also contracted Coeur d'Alene attorney Chuck Sheroke for this issue.

SPBA remains in dire need of funding for its legal efforts; members or friends who oppose the development are encouraged to donate to the SPBA Huckleberry Bay Legal Fund.

JOIN THE SPBA

Support the Selkirk-Priest
Basin Association
by becoming a member!

Our newsletter, funded entirely by member contributions, keeps you informed of natural resource issues within the Priest Basin, and offers regular updates on the efforts of SPBA to promote environmental excellence. Now is time to give to the environment which sustains us all.

Make a contribution; keep *Sightlines* coming regularly. Dues and donations are tax-deductible.

Enroll me as a member of the SPBA. Enclosed are my dues:

	Individual dues	Couples
Regular:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20

To help more, I'm enclosing an additional contribution:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

☐ **Yes, I'm interested in volunteering for SPBA work. Call me.**

SELKIRK-PRIEST BASIN ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1809
PRIEST RIVER, ID 83856

Sightlines is the quarterly newsletter of the Selkirk-Priest Basin Association, P.O. Box 1809, Priest River, ID 83856; (208) 448-2971. Copyright 1993 by SPBA: Bruce Brockway, chairman; Gordon West, treasurer. Directors: Harry Batey, Jules Gindraux, Barry Rosenberg, Ted Runberg, Joanne Hirabayashi, Chris Bessler. Development Director, David Boswell. Fundraising Coordinator, Claude Morris. Editorial Committee Chairman, Bill White. SPBA is a non-profit corporation providing environmental oversight and public information for the Priest River Basin of northern Idaho. Third-class postage paid at Priest River, Idaho. Permit No. 27. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SPBA at the address above.

Selkirk-Priest Basin Association
P.O. Box 1809
Priest River, ID 83856

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

PERMIT NO. 27
Priest River, ID