

Sight



Lines

NEWSLETTER OF THE SELKIRK-PRIEST BASIN ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN 1994

Talks Faltering; Appeal Likely in Butch Creek Sale

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN the SPBA and the Priest Lake Ranger District over the proposed Butch Creek Timber Sale have broken down, and it appears likely the SPBA will be forced to file an appeal in the case.

Ranger Kent Dunstan issued a decision on Oct. 20 to log an additional 4 million board feet from approximately 400 acres in the beleaguered Butch Creek drainage. Members of the SPBA Forestry Committee have been working with the Forest Service on the proposed timber sale for more than two years.

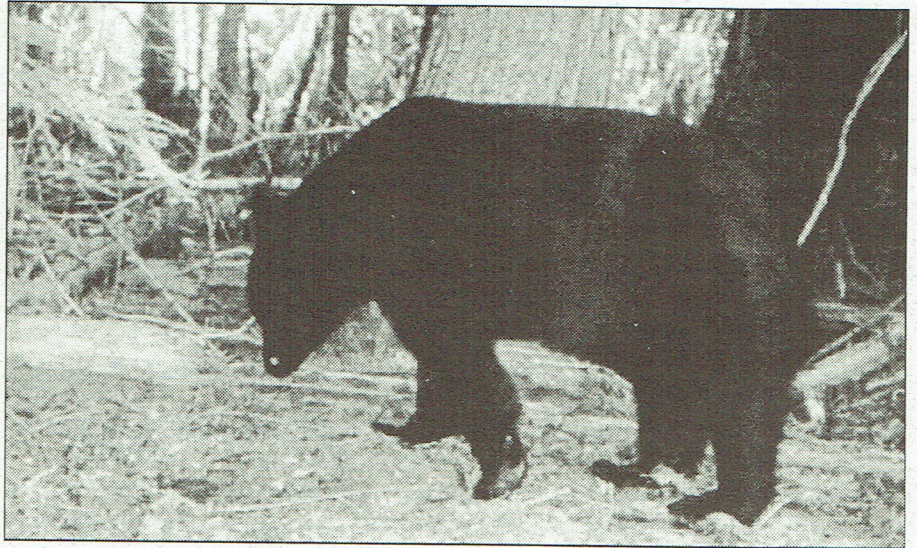
The SPBA, along with consulting experts, have made numerous field trips with the Forest Service to the area in hopes of blazing a new trail of cooperation with the agency.

"We managed to get them to agree to thin the stands on Hickman Ridge, taking only 25 percent of the trees instead of the 60 to 90 percent they had originally proposed," noted SPBA Forestry Committee member Barry Rosenberg. "But they refused to change their method of logging in another part of the sale area which lies above the upper portion of the Bear Paw Road."

The area in question was poorly

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Caught on film



TRAPPED — SORT OF: A black bear is caught on film during field testing of SPBA's new infrared camera equipment. The camera was purchased this spring after a special fundraising campaign. It is set up in the forest, and animals moving by trip its motion detector. It will eventually be used to survey rare wildlife which can otherwise be impossible to document; the first trial for the camera caught five more common species: a squirrel, skunk, deer, rabbit and Mr. Bruin, above. The camera will be used in conjunction with studies by Priest Lake Ranger District biologists, who have four similar cameras, in addition to projects by SPBA itself.

Road Closures Likely in Griz Habitat

A FINAL DECISION NOTICE in the Kalispell-Granite Access Management Project is due out around Thanksgiving, Forest Service officials say, and thanks to a flurry of last-minute support it is likely the Forest Service will proceed with its plan for road closures within the management

area.

Under the Forest Service's preferred alternative, the project will close about 125 miles of forest roads in order to provide more secure habitat for the threatened Selkirk Mountains grizzly bears.

In a special alert letter in September,

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Right to Appeal Huck Bay Decision Upheld by District Judge

THE SPBA'S RIGHT TO APPEAL a zoning decision that would allow the Huckleberry Bay Company (HBC) to proceed with plans for a large-scale development at the lake's pristine bay has been upheld by a district judge. In a hearing Oct. 11 District Court Judge Gary Haman upheld SPBA's right to appeal the Bonner County Board of Commissioners' approval of the preliminary plat and planned unit develop-

ments at Huckleberry Bay.

Although the parties have been struggling since that time to get to the merits of the appeal, a hearing set in August was delayed as a result of a motion filed by Bonner County Attorney John Topp. Topp was seeking to dismiss the appeal on the basis that SPBA did not have standing.

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Chairman's Message

We Must Stand Watch

AS MOST ANYONE WHO FOLLOWS environmental news knows, the U.S. Forest Service is undergoing some dramatic changes. Decades of overcutting have finally produced results so incontrovertible that pressure from grassroots conservation groups such as the SPBA has forced the USFS to slow the flood of sales in our forests, rather than continue bowing to the politically powerful timber industry.

The icing on the cake this year was the appointment of Jack Ward Thomas, a biologist, as the new chief of the Forest Service. Thomas entered the office with the slogan, "Obey the law and tell the truth," a message aimed at reforming the narrow timber-driven mindset that has demoralized the once-proud agency in order to put it back on the track of good, honest stewardship.

The picture is not all rosy, however, since the level of reform needed is tremendous and does not all reside under the command of the new chief. One of the most pernicious problems has been the way the Forest Service is funded. The money with which the agency operates comes from congressional appropriation, a chancy business since on-the-ground management needs are all but lost in the politics of budget scuffling.

To make matters worse, the promise of timber receipts makes the politicians look more favorably on larger appropriations, if the money is earmarked for more cutting. This has created a situation where the only way to find money for the many other resources — wildlife, trails, stream restoration, etc. — is to cut more trees and thereby cause more damage. This catch-22 funding method also allows a few powerful senators, such as Idaho's Larry Craig, and certain representatives to meddle with on-the-ground management, something best left to the professionals.

But the word is out that the new chief is "just saying no" to timber cutting targets, and that many influential congressmen



intend to back it up. Thomas is telling his personnel that ecosystem management will be the new norm and that the Forest Service is to do what is right for the forest. This attitude — if it can be forced upon the old guard buffalo-heads who equate good management with cutting — will take enormous pressure off of the districts. And we hope it will end the decade of adversarial struggle between the agency and conservation-minded citizens.

The ship has slowed and is starting to turn, but can we relax? Not on your life! These are only the winds of change, not change itself. And the results of the general election this November, in which Republicans captured majorities in both the U.S. House and Senate with a strident message

which promises increased exploitation of our natural resources, bode ill for public land management.

As long as there are people who think the green of a dollar is worth more than the green of a healthy ecosystem, we must stand watch.

The SPBA forestry volunteers who have given so much of themselves in the past will continue to monitor and try to bolster the change. I encourage anyone with an interest in forest issues to step in and join the veterans in helping forge new ideas of how to manage our precious public lands.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon West".

Gordon West
SPBA Chairman

Priest Lake Study Continues According to Schedule

THE PRIEST LAKE STUDY is moving ahead right on track. The study team has accelerated its meeting schedule to about once every three weeks and is beginning to compile information for the various issues around which the management plan will be written.

Committees are in place to research wastewater, stormwater, agriculture, construction/development, timber/logging roads, public and private roads, motorized watercraft, hazardous materials and underground tanks, and recreation. As

Sightlines went to press, recent meetings had concerned motorized watercraft on Oct. 2, and hazardous materials and underground tanks on Oct. 23. The next meeting, set for Nov. 13, was to include an examination of recreation uses of the lake.

Glen Rothrock reported on the study progress and informed the team that preliminary assessments of nearshore areas are indicating levels of degradation. The suspected causes for this lowered water quality are sediments from road and building construction, and nutrients from

wastewater that is reaching the lake. Much of the sediment problem can be easily avoided by using best management practices and inexpensive erosion control measures. The biggest failing in this area is ignorance and/or disregard of commonly accepted protective methods.

Of special wastewater concern is the Granite/Reeder area, which has an underlying aquifer and no community treatment system.

Anyone interested in these issues should attend the regular meetings. Some public participation is encouraged.

Workshop, Small Timber Sales Should Help Basin Economy

SO, WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS? Two positive recent developments — a small business workshop and the offering of small timber sales — should help to promote economic stability in the Basin. Both have to do with jobs.

The first was a weekend workshop held Oct. 14-15 at the Priest River Junior High School, called Future Jobs and Small Business Opportunities for Pend Oreille River Valley Communities. The workshop presented an overview of how small communities like ours are dealing with economic transitions; it highlighted developing areas like solid waste management and information networking which can provide local jobs, and described successful activities of local small business enterprises.

Areas covered were how to seek financing, legal considerations, marketing strategies and business incubator assistance. The workshop was a joint effort of such diverse groups as the

Priest River Chamber of Commerce, the Priest River Development Corporation, a cooperative of crafters, Women in Timber and our own SPBA. Though attendance was smaller than hoped for, those who participated were enthusiastic right to the end, and set Jan. 14 as the date to get together and start working on plans for a second such workshop to take place next year.

The second development comes at the hand of Priest Lake District Ranger Kent Dunstan, who shares SPBA's concern about the lack of opportunities for small, local logging outfits. Dunstan has decided to offer every month a few small timber sales of fewer than 20,000 board feet to provide jobs for independent operators.

Such sales are exactly what the Small Loggers Council has been asking for and will help to keep timber sale money within the community. The SPBA congratulates our Forest Service manager for supporting the local economy in this way.

Rare Caribou Threatened by State Timber Sale

SPBA'S WILDLIFE COMMITTEE is decrying an Idaho Department of Lands Timber sale at Priest Lake that will build roads and cut timber in the occupied habitat of caribou, the rarest mammal in the continental United States.

The Klooch Mountain timber sale, in a remote section of the Selkirk Mountains, will carve two miles of road and remove 1 million board feet of timber from high elevation spruce-fir forests known to be used by the caribou.

The animals are the most critically endangered species in America today and, by the state's own admission, a recovery effort undertaken five years ago is failing.

Idaho's rare caribou have adapted over the millennia to specific and specialized habitats. Because a type of brainworm commonly found in whitetail deer can be fatal to Idaho's caribou, the animals have adapted to high elevation, old-growth spruce forests where the deer typically do not range. That survival adaptation has resulted in the caribou's specialized needs and physical characteristics.

Deep snow levels in the Selkirk Mountains have led to the evolving of distended hooves which allow the caribou mobility in deep snow. Their hooves can open up much like snowshoes and have been measured in excess of 12 inches.

Also, because they will not inhabit

areas occupied by whitetail deer as an instinctive defense against contracting the fatal brainworm, they have developed a specialized diet, feeding exclusively on old man's beard lichen which drape the boughs of old growth trees. Caribou can only survive in high elevation old-growth spruce-fir habitats away from the deer — exactly where the IDL wants to log.

SPBA Wildlife Committee member David Boswell said the proposed logging is a "reckless" land use action.

"There can be no dispute that the continued survival of the caribou will depend on the protection and preservation of its specialized habitat," Boswell said. "The equation is very simple: No habitat, no caribou, and any biologist worth his salt knows it. The state's sale is a habitat destruction sale, and the conclusion is inescapable that the state knows its actions will have a serious deleterious impact on the animal."

The sale, originally planned for 300 acres, has been reduced to about 100 acres at the urging of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, but Boswell said the acreage reduction is still not acceptable.

"Fish and Game knows this sale shouldn't be taking place, but they are impotent to constrain or influence the activities of the Idaho Land Board. In fact, the Land Board rejected their recom-

mendations that the sale not take place at all," Boswell said.

Although the caribou are supposed to be protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act, Idaho asserts that it has no responsibility to protect the animals because it contends the state lands must be managed for financial returns only. That claim is currently the subject of litigation brought by the SPBA in a lawsuit challenging the Board's forest management policies and practices.

"At this point, the SPBA is helpless to prevent the sale because District Court Judge Craig Kosonen has ruled SPBA has no standing to contest timber sale decisions on state lands," Boswell said.

Additionally, the SPBA was unable to elicit support for a federal lawsuit challenging the sale because, in part, Idaho Fish and Game could not be relied upon as a friendly witness to contest the action.

"They have rushed to the Land Board's defense in the past on this type of issue, and they can be expected to rush to the Land Board's defense on this one, if only because they fear political reprisals," Boswell said.

A coalition of environmental groups is currently studying ways to combat the political gamesmanship and inertia that destroys endangered species habitat on Idaho state lands.

Stewardship an Ethic of Personal Responsibility

by Mark Eliot
Private Forestry Specialist
Idaho Department of Lands

A WORD COMING into common usage these days in forest management is "stewardship," which is defined in the dictionary as "one who manages another's property." Today it is hard to pick up any natural resource publication without finding some mention of the word. Someone once said that, "We do not inherit the land from our parents; we borrow it from our children." This concept implies an ethic that we would do well to put into common practice.

The development of a land ethic is an individual responsibility, something that can't be dictated or handed down to us. Aldo Leopold may have said it best in 1948 in his forward to "A Sand County Almanac":

Conservation is getting nowhere because it is incompatible with our Abrahamic concept of land. We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. There is no other way for land to survive the impact of mechanized man, nor for us to reap from it the aesthetic harvest it is capable, under science, of contributing to culture.

That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics. That land yields a cultural harvest is a fact long known, but latterly often forgotten.

In 1993 log prices rose steadily in northern Idaho and didn't falter until late first quarter 1994. With the rise in prices came record harvest levels from non-industrial private forest (NIPF) lands in the five northern counties. Last year there were 4,203 Notification of Forest Practice applications filed in those five counties, and about 233.4 million board feet of timber was cut (approximately 50,000 truckloads). This does not include the volume cut from private industrial, federal or state lands.

Some of these logging activities were well-planned, and if followed by additional appropriate management, then the art and science of stewardship will have been properly applied. Unfortunately, many private forest owners have had little or no sense of stewardship, and those lands were cut purely for short-term profit. Continued careful management was abandoned, or the former forestland was subdivided and offered for sale as "prime northern Idaho real estate."

The laws on the books apply only to the most egregious abuses to the land and are far from promoting good stewardship. But laws are not the solution to maintaining healthy forests, anyway. We must strive to individually love and respect the land and then perhaps, as Aldo Leopold so eloquently expressed, a cultural stewardship ethos may evolve.

The Idaho Department of Lands sponsors a Forest Stewardship program for private forestland owners. Many SPBA members are enrolled in the program and have benefitted greatly. For information, contact your local IDL office.

Does History Repeat Itself?

by Dennis Clark
Service Forester
Idaho Department of Lands

IN THE EARLY part of this century, timber companies had exhausted the supply of logs in the Great Lakes states and were looking west for new supplies. Large tracts of North Idaho were purchased by companies such as Humbird Lumber Co. that removed trees and burned leftover slash. Tracts with potential farmland were then sold to westbound immigrants looking for a place of their own and a better life. These were the "stump farms" of North Idaho, but many had marginal growing conditions for agriculture. As farms failed, many naturally regrew trees over time, and forests once again occupied much of the land.

These stands are now 50 to 80 years old and very marketable under today's standards and prices. Some speculators are now buying privately owned forest land, then harvesting all merchantable trees and breaking the property into 20-acre parcels under current planning and zoning rules. The parcels are then sold to "immigrants" looking for a place of their own and better quality of life. History seems to repeat itself except for one small twist. This time we have the Idaho Forest Practices Act (IFPA).

The act requires that forest practices be conducted in a manner "... to assure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species and to protect and maintain the forest soil, air, water resources, wildlife and aquatic habitat." Many best management practices are required during the harvesting operations.

In addition, reforestation is required within five growing seasons after a forest harvest reduces the stock of acceptable tree species below specified levels. If stocking levels are not acceptable at the end of three growing seasons, the party responsible for the reduction in stocking must order seedlings and replant the area by the fifth growing season.

This rule may not prevent the removal of these stands of timber, but it will speed the time until a new forest is established. In this case, history is only partially repeating itself.

Movement Afoot to Close UP to Motorboats

THERE IS a new movement afoot to close Upper Priest Lake to motorized boat traffic.

The SPBA directors are studying the

issue and at this time no course of action has been decided. Persons interested in participating in this issue can call the SPBA office at 448-2971.

Lightning strikes



THUNDERSTORMS ABOVE PRIEST LAKE: North Idaho experienced an extremely dry summer and was hit by a wave of thunderstorms in July and August that sparked hundreds of small spot fires and large forest fires in the region. This photo, taken by Indian Mountain lookout and SPBA member John Agars, is an example of the dramatic lightning strikes that barraged our tinder-dry forests last summer. A forest fire near Salmo Priest Wilderness north of Priest Lake kept firefighters busy for weeks.

Local Committee Examines Zones for Little Trapper Sale

THE LOCAL WORKING Committee for Priest Lake Stream Segments of Concern visited the Trapper Creek drainage recently to examine the riparian zone protection incorporated in the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) proposed Little Trapper timber sale. SPBA Forestry Committee member Barry Rosenberg joined the committee and gave his input on the zone protection.

The Little Trapper sale is yet another cut planned by the state for the Trapper Creek drainage. A preceding sale in the same drainage, Lower Green Bonnet timber sale, is currently being challenged in the courts by the SPBA. In that case, SPBA is awaiting a decision by the Idaho Supreme Court on whether the group has legal standing to challenge the timber sale; if the Supreme Court agrees SPBA does have standing, the group's challenge of the Idaho Department of Lands in this

case could set precedents, affecting management of state lands throughout Idaho.

In the case of the Little Trapper timber sale, on the way up to the proposed sale area, the group discussed the IDL's road inventory, intensified road maintenance and closure program for the Trapper drainage. In addition to Rosenberg, the group included timber industry representatives, a local rancher, a Huckleberry Bay Co. representative and IDL employees. Rosenberg was glad to see IDL's increased road management efforts.

"There is little doubt that the improvements made to the Trapper Creek Road and the improved road construction for the Lower Green Bonnet timber sale are the results of SPBA's intense oversight of IDL's timber sales program," Rosenberg said. "We are still vehemently opposed to their illegal and damaging timber sale program, but we ought to be thankful for

the small progress that has been made so far."

The trip to evaluate the Stream Protection Zone (SPZ) for the Little Trapper sale demonstrated that the IDL gives timber harvest priority over stream protection. The SPZ is a steep area with thin, rocky soils above Trapper Creek. The new state regulations require that at least a 75-foot SPZ be established for Class I streams such as Trapper Creek. Roger Jansson of the Priest Lake office of the IDL said that the Trapper Creek SPZ was 80 to 110 feet, depending on the logical topographic break. The only trees that are supposed to be cut within this SPZ are dead or dying white pine.

The group, however, found that the IDL did not adhere to its own guidelines.

"We found many trees other than white

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Grizzly bears

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SPBA asked its members to support the proposed road closures. Noting that with as few as 10 grizzlies struggling to survive in the American Selkirks — and with illegal killing of the bears the No. 1 cause of deaths — SPBA Wildlife Committee Chairman Chris Bessler acknowledged that the road closures do demand SPBA members sacrifice motor vehicle access to some roads. However, he pointed out, major roads through the management area will remain open.

"The bottom line is, research has proven that roads bring grizzlies into conflict with people — with the effect that the bears are either killed by poachers or forced into marginal habitat," Bessler said. "The bears need someplace to live where people can't just drive up and shoot them."

That is exactly what happened last year, Bessler pointed out, when a poacher killed the mother grizzly bear "Sy," whose two young cubs also likely died, just off a road in the Willow Creek Road area (see accompanying story, right).

SPBA members responded strongly to the group's call for protection of grizzly habitat. Although comment was running against the proposed road closures in

early September, by the time the public comment period closed Sept. 16, the majority of comments supported the closures. Forest Service officials said 92 persons wrote comments opposing road closures, and 21 opposed grizzly recovery efforts. However, 101 people wrote in favor of the road closures, with 58 specifically supporting grizzly bear recovery.

As a sign of how divisive the grizzly habitat issue is, even some SPBA members opposed the road closures or grizzly recovery. Four SPBA members wrote notes to Bessler saying they could

not support grizzly bears. "The Selkirk bears will not get my support," wrote one member. "There are enough grizzly bears across the border in Canada. I love to huckleberry. What the loggers haven't ruined, the government wants for bears."

Bessler said the SPBA directors were keenly aware that some of the membership would not support road closures.

"The issue demands hard choices," he said, "but ultimately, we believed the question boiled down to this: Will we try to provide someplace for bears to live, or will we stand by while they are exterminated? We decided — and we believe the large majority of our membership wants — to take a stand for the bears."

If the Forest Service adopts the road closure plan as expected, officials will begin to implement the closures in 1995.

“The bottom line is, research has proven that roads bring grizzlies into conflict with people ...”

say they could

Charges likely in grizzly poaching

A YEAR AFTER "Sy" the grizzly bear was gunned down by a poacher, no one has been arrested — despite a large reward posted by the SPBA and other groups.

However, officials with the Washington Department of Wildlife say that a suspect has been identified in the case and it is very likely charges will be filed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the case. USFWS agents did not immediately return phone calls from SPBA.

Sy was shot off Willow Creek Road near Pass Creek Pass last November. Her two young cubs also likely perished without their mother.

Sy was the first and last radio-collared grizzly in a multi-agency study of the Selkirk Mountains grizzly bears. The bears are classified a threatened species, and illegal killings bring federal penalties.

The number of grizzlies in the U.S. portion of the Selkirks is as small as 10 animals. The loss of a breeding female — Sy had produced eight cubs in the last 10 years — was a major blow to the grizzly population.

SPBA members pledged \$1,245 to a reward fund that could total almost \$20,000 for information leading to the poacher's arrest. It is unclear if the suspect was identified on the basis of information eligible for the reward.

Trapper trip

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pine that were marked to be cut, some growing right on the edge of the stream. Jansson claimed it was just a 'mistake' that other trees besides the white pine were not protected," Rosenberg said.

Further, Rosenberg said they found that the location of the "topographic break" was from steep to steeper instead of between gentle and steep ground. Jansson said he will make an adjustment to the location of the SPZ. Rosenberg stated that he was opposed to yet another sale in the Trapper drainage, but if the sale could not be stopped, the SPZ should be much wider and should be a "no-cut zone."

"Skidding logs up these steep slopes with their thin soils is going to result in additional and unnecessary sediment entering Trapper Creek. The importance of Trapper's native westslope cutthroat and bull trout fishery should take precedence over the money that will be made from those few logs," said Rosenberg.

Jansson responded that he was not going to forego the money to be made from those white pines. The IDL hydrologist agreed with Jansson that the SPZ was adequate. The Local Working Committee approved the SPZ, with the exception of Rosenberg and the Huckleberry Bay representative, who was absent for the vote. Since consensus was not reached by the committee, IDL Director Stan Hamilton

will decide the issue.

The tour included a visit to the notorious Trapper slide which deposited tons of sediment into Trapper Creek as a result of a landslide that occurred due to a poorly designed road that was constructed in 1969-70. The IDL feels that their repair work has stabilized the cutslope, the hillside portion above the road. The fillslope, or portion between the road and Trapper Creek, is still at risk. The state has plans to continue their stabilization efforts between the road and Trapper Creek.

Rosenberg is somewhat skeptical of the permanency of the stabilization efforts. "The hubris of the IDL has been often brought to task. Time will tell," he said.

Butch Creek

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logged in the 1970s, when the Forest Service had loggers remove the biggest and best of the trees.

"I saw the area after it was logged back then, and it was a mess," said Chairman of the Forestry Committee Bill Egolf. "The area is recovering from the previous logging," he said.

The Inland Empire Public Lands Council sponsored a field trip to the area in question. Attending the session were four professional foresters with diverse backgrounds; the four were unanimous in the opinion that the area should not be logged at all.

None of the consulting foresters could understand why the Forest Service would want to enter an area that is young and thriving. To do so, they agreed, would result in long-term significant damage to the area.

Dunstan agreed during the field trip that the area in question might not be a high priority area for logging, but he and his staff, David Cobb and David Aleson, believe the logging will be beneficial in the long run.

The SPBA has a long history with the Butch Creek Timber Sale, dating back to



BUTCH CREEK FIELD TRIP: *SPBA Forestry Committee members joined Forest Service personnel and independent foresters in a field trip to the Butch Creek timber sale site in the spring. It was one of several on-the-ground examinations carried out as SPBA attempted to negotiate improvements to the proposed sale.*

1985 when two SPBA founding directors, David Boswell and Barry Rosenberg, appealed the sale. Their appeal made it to the Chief of the Forest Service before it was decided in their favor, and the sale was withdrawn.

Forestry Committee members have

devoted many hours to the current negotiations.

Rosenberg said that he is appreciative of Ranger Dunstan's efforts in the negotiations, and he hopes that some further changes will be made so the SPBA is not forced to appeal the sale.

Huck Bay

Continued from page 1

Judge Haman disagreed with the county's position after hearing oral arguments from the parties. Judge Haman denied the motion to dismiss on the basis that he believed that SPBA was perhaps the only entity that could be expected to bring a lawsuit of this nature. This decision was based on a line of court cases establishing standing for environmental groups in matters of public interest, when there might not be any other individual or entity to bring such a suit.

"Of course, we're pleased that the judge turned down the motion for a dismissal," said SPBA Director Jules Gindraux. According to Gindraux, Topp's move was a "specious argument considering that SPBA members represented by the organization can attest to varied injuries arising from development actions and plans of HBC."

HBC was given preliminary plat approval for the project by Bonner County Commissioners Gene Brown and Wayne Newcomb on July 2, 1993, and then final plat approval on Feb. 2, 1994 over the unanimous recommendation for denial by the Planning and Zoning Commission. (As an aside to this story, Commissioner Brown lost the November election.

Commissioner Susan MacLeod, who chose not to run for another term, will be replaced in January by Steve Klatt.)

SPBA promptly filed an appeal in the District Court in Sandpoint. The appeal is based on procedural improprieties in the hearing process and was assigned to Judge James Michaud. Subsequently, Michaud disqualified himself for unknown reasons after months of various delays. The case was then transferred to Judge Haman in Coeur d'Alene.

In another motion heard Oct. 11, SPBA attorneys Paul Vogel and Chuck Sheroke asked the court to reopen the court record to allow them to present more evidence for the court's consideration. Judge Haman denied that request. If he had approved, SPBA would have been able to present alleged procedural irregularities related to Commissioner Brown's contacts with HBC prior to the decision to approve HBC's preliminary plat. The SPBA is also concerned that the Open Public Meetings Act was violated as a result of Commissioners Newcomb and Brown excluding MacLeod from deliberations.

Although Judge Haman did not have time to address several other procedural matters, the parties will begin preparation of legal memorandums on the appeal, according to Vogel. No further date has been set either for submission of the briefs or for oral arguments.

Donations tax deductible
**SPBA launches fundraising
 campaign to members**

WITH A YEAR of intense activity winding up, the Selkirk-Priest Basin Association coffers have been drawn low. And to compound matters, the work which faces the group in 1995 is truly daunting.

That's why at their Nov. 3 meeting, SPBA Directors voted to send a fundraising letter to the membership, asking for an extra contribution as we enter the holiday season.

SPBA has posted significant achievements in the past year. They include aggressive steps in the precedent-setting lawsuit against the Idaho Land Board; a continuing challenge to the massive development at Huckleberry Bay; activities on behalf of Priest Basin wildlife; continuing oversight of forestry actions on state and federal lands; a concerted effort to help diversify the Priest Basin economy and bring new, non-exploitative jobs; support for education, including a \$1,000 scholarship; and more.

And, as SPBA Chairman Gordon West noted, the SPBA work is carried out almost exclusively by volunteers — its only staff position is a part-time administrative secretary. "We don't have an expensive executive director or supporting staff," West said.

SPBA's track record as a grassroots group that gets things done won it two

grants this fall. The Harder Foundation granted the group \$8,800 for its Forest Watch and other forestry programs, and Patagonia, Inc., granted the group \$6,000 in support of the secretary's position. "We're deeply appreciative that these two grantors have made this concrete show of support for SPBA," said West.

Yet West noted that those two grants are dedicated monies, and the group has many other expenses — to maintain the office, pay telephone and postage and printing, legal expenses, mileage costs for hearings, and more. The group's fund for general operating expenses is very low, he said.

"We need our members' support more than ever," West said. "The challenges to the Basin are not going away. In fact, in view of the strong conservative swing in the recent elections it is going to be 'open season' on the Basin for those who want only to exploit its natural resources for short-term profit, with no concern for the future.

"For that reason, I hope our members will respond to our recent letter asking for contributions. Their donations are critical to keep SPBA working toward the goals we all share."

All contributions are tax deductible. Mail to: Selkirk-Priest Basin Association, P.O. Box 1809, Priest River, ID 83856.

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 the 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

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