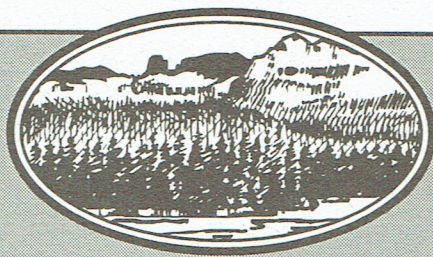


Sight



Lines

NEWSLETTER OF THE SELKIRK-PRIEST BASIN ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 1997

You're Invited To

CELEBASIN

*Slated Sunday,
August 24!*

Celebasin and the annual SPBA membership meeting will be Sunday Aug. 24. Once more Ted and Rita Runberg have graciously invited the board and membership to share an afternoon at their home on the Pend Oreille River between Priest River and Newport.

There will be much to talk about. Committee chairs will have important reports on actions to protect the lake at Cavanaugh Bay and farther north on the east side, including the lawsuit against Huckleberry Bay's overreaching development. The board also wants to discuss other gains and losses in our continuing battle to preserve the Basin's unparalleled environment. And the board wants to hear from members about their concerns and suggestions for actions the association should take.

Admission, of course, is free. Please bring your favorite beverage. Burgers and salads will be provided. We look forward to a large turnout of members and guests to chart a course in these environmentally troubled times. Members will receive a formal invitation, along with a map showing the route to the Runberg home, in early August. The event will be from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. More information is available by calling (208) 448-2971 or (208) 437-2222.

Huck Bay chock full of docks Land Board eases easement

An agreement that will allow construction of 10 new docks at the Huckleberry Bay development is being challenged by the Selkirk-Priest Basin Association. Attorneys for SPBA, in a petition for review and action for declaratory judgment, ask Bonner County District Court to overturn the agreement between the Idaho Department of Lands, State Board of Land Commissioners and Huckleberry Bay Company.

SPBA challenges the agreement's interpretation of a 1988 recreational easement granted for the Priest Lake east shore development. The agreement, signed on May 28, allows seven private docks and at least three commu-

nity docks with very restricted public access. It was not only opposed by SPBA and members of the public, but also is contrary to the recommendations of legal counsel within the Department of Lands and to earlier statements by HBC executive Don Barbieri.

"This appears to be another example of how the state's five highest elected officials, who live hundreds of miles away,

disregarded public input and the intent of a valid legal agreement to serve out-of-state private interests," said Kevin Watson, SPBA executive director. "The language of the 1988 easement clearly says that its purpose is for

Continued on page 7

***'This new agreement ...
is a clear violation of
the public's rights ...'***

Forest Service says: Log Lakeface/Lamb to save forest

Last year, the Priest Lake Ranger District proposed the Lakeface/Lamb timber sale in the Kalispell, Luby Bay and Outlet Bay areas. Lakeface/Lamb is purportedly designed to reduce the risk of wildfire and "treat" stands "infested" with insects and diseases.

There is some question, however, whether logging in this heavily impacted area will accomplish the Forest Service's stated objectives or, conversely, exacerbate the very problems the agency seeks to address.

In October, SPBA invited Dr. Leon Nuenschwander, fire ecology expert at the University of Idaho, to examine the Lakeface/Lamb timber sale and comment on the validity of the project with regard to its purported objectives. After analysis, Dr. Nuenschwander stated that the agency was not considering all relevant factors and critical information was lacking from the Forest Service's fire model. He also stated that without long-term maintenance of the site, the Forest Service would create a situation "worse than what they had to start with."

In other words, Forest Service logging could well exacerbate fire danger by opening up the canopy, thus drying out the understory and fine fuels as well as encouraging the growth of highly flammable shrubs and grasses. In addition, logging will generate large amounts of highly combustible logging slash.

There is also some question whether the Forest Service has the dedicated funds to ensure that required maintenance activities will be undertaken. If "prescribed" or low intensity fire is not regularly introduced in these areas, more "doghair" thickets of young trees will grow back, which will essentially recreate (or make worse) existing conditions.

Logging can also create other problems such as the introduction of noxious weeds, soil compaction and nutrient depletion, enhance access for destructive off-road vehicles, and provide new "infection courts" for root disease, fungi and other pathogens.

The Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project in its scientific analysis of past management practices on public lands is quite clear about the deleterious effects of

Continued on page 7

Chairman's Message

Land Board to lake: drop dead

The State Land Board has once again sent a "drop dead" message to Priest Lake and the public. We reported in the Spring '97 *Sightlines* that Huckleberry Bay Company and the State Land Board were entering an agreement that would allow HBC to build a total of 10 docks at the bay – the end portion of two of them to be shared with the public who use the public beaches.

The deal went through despite objections of nearby residents and SPBA attorney Charles Graham. Graham represented us and appeared at the Land Board hearing to remind the Board that the State Attorney General had concluded that HBC had no legal claim to place docks on public property for the benefit of upland land owners who purchase acreage from HBC.

Well, the Board sold the public out and approved the deal, and now we will have 10 private docks along the public beach at the

bay. This is another example of the outrageous decision making by the politicians on the Board who regularly approve unsustainable timber cutting on the east side of the lake and development schemes such as the Blue Diamond Marina on state lease land. Now this!

We urge the Land Board to take the time to review the Priest Lake Management Plan which is now statute law of the state. Chapter 3 commits the Board to "... maintain the existing water quality of Priest Lake ... and providing for project best management practices."

– Bill White

(Filling in for Chairman Harry Batey, who is recuperating from an injury)

SPBA Board at retreat:

Education is critical to SPBA's focus

Education. Education. Education. At a recent SPBA board retreat, the same words and phrases were oft repeated during the course of the day. The topic: where to focus SPBA's resources.

Many of the issues facing the Basin and its residents are complicated and frequently driven by politics and corporate goals far removed from our local communities. Unfortunately, the achievement of these goals is usually at the expense our forests, streams, wildlife and the people who make their homes here.

SPBA has a strong history of successfully defending the integrity of the Basin and speaking out against abuses and ill-conceived plans. But, the assaults continue by our state and federal government and by wealthy parties who want to become wealthier at the expense of the public.

The Lakeface-Lamb Creek logging proposal by the Forest Service and the actions of the Idaho Land Board and the Huckleberry Bay Company are good examples. So, what's a conservation group to do?

When they don't respond to negotiation, we can continue to challenge the parties in the courts. We can expose their practices to the media and hope the stories receives the coverage they deserve. We can write letters and vote for the candidates who we believe reflect our personal beliefs. But to truly be successful, we need to enroll others in our activities. And one of the best ways is through education.

What roles do wetlands play in the Basin? Why should we care if mountain caribou, grizzly bear or bull trout survive? What are good road-building practices? Why are roadless areas important? Why do we hear so much about saving old growth?

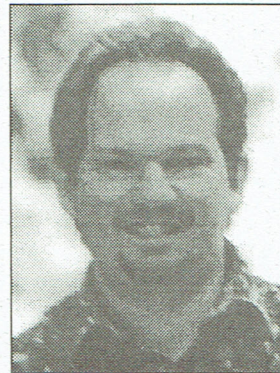
What's going to happen if we continue our present course? Until the public can answer these questions intelligently, it's difficult to expect much support when they hear SPBA is taking the Land Board to court, or appealing a timber sale.

Therefore, it behooves us to take more time to explain the issues, the science behind the answers and offer workshops and tours to get people into the field. And for those who depend on their newspaper and televisions, they need to be asking more of the media. They need to know which media companies have mining interests, that the editorial slant in some newspapers is dictated by management so as not to anger advertisers and which politicians are controlled by industry.

Education is a process. It doesn't have to be painful, formal or expensive. *Sightlines* is one example, others include the recent loon survey on Priest Lake and an Old Growth Tour scheduled for Oct. 4 (see related story on page 8).

We're always interested in informative, interesting programs and welcome suggestions, we also need volunteers to help our committee chairs. Contact us if you have an idea or better yet, make plans to attend Celebasin on August 24. You'll meet other people with similar interests and will have the opportunity to learn more about what's happening in the Basin.

The ability to immediately respond to critical issues and financial stability were also retreat topics – and your gifts and dues



make that possible. There have been many generous contributions recently for which we are grateful. I want to especially acknowledge the Margaret Reed Foundation for funding the production of a new SPBA brochure and Mike and Donna Malbon who responded to our wish list in the last *Sightlines*. The Malbons donated a very complete computer system that is a welcome (and needed) addition to the SPBA office. THANK YOU! Our educational programs and legal challenges to protect the Basin are not inexpensive and I encourage you to consider making an appropriate gift.

More and more national attention is being focused on what's taking place in this part of the country. Major magazines, newspapers and news programs are starting to pay attention to logging, road building, water quality and wildlife issues. Last November the *New York Times* even had an article about the old-growth cedars and quoted one of our committee chairs. People all around the country share our concerns – let's use this opportunity to show that a grassroots organization can be effective. And don't forget to enjoy the Basin this summer!

Kevin Watson

– Kevin Watson
Executive Director

Trees fall by the thousands

Winter damage brings on salvage sales

Kent Dunstan, Forest Service District Ranger at Priest Lake, offered a wry smile when asked to identify the most serious problems in the basin brought on by one of the harshest winters of the century. "Snow shovel withdrawal, sore hands and backs," he quipped.

However a reading of the USFS May 7 (amended June 20) Winter Damage Salvage Project document reveals that parts of the Priest Basin were hit hard and extensively. From Pyramid Pass on the Pend Oreille Crest, south to Stone Johnny Mountain near Newport, thousands of trees have been sheared or toppled by snow loads and high winds over the winter of 1996-97.

Downed trees were also numerous in areas near Priest Lake, particularly the southern portion where warmer temperatures in conjunction with wind and snow caused blocked roads and tree damage to approximately 50 percent of houses, cabins and out-buildings between Hill's Resort and Outlet Bay.

Other areas with heavy damage to roads and forests include Bismark, Reeder, Indian and Binarch Mountains. Road flooding and a half-dozen plugged culverts were revealed as winter snow receded.

Roger Jansson, Chief Forester for the Idaho Department of Lands, reports that state lands on the east side of the basin fared quite well with only minor road damage and some smaller trees downed from snow loading. Residents living near the lake didn't fare very well, however. Deep snow, damage to dwellings, power and phone outages forced many people to leave the area until spring.

The FS Winter Damage Salvage Project calls for salvage logging on up to 1,500 acres to remove up to 10 million board feet of timber. Justifications for the logging, according to Ranger Dunstan, are to open



THIS CLEARCUT NEAR Bear Paw Pass just below the ridgeline opens up the remaining forest to undue wind damage. This tree on the edge of the clearcut, inset, likely toppled because of the wind's force in a recent storm.

roads and protect power lines and to retrieve money from the salvaged trees. In addition, Dunstan raised concerns about fire and outbreaks of bark beetle on downed and damaged pine and fir trees.

Some areas of old growth forest are being re-evaluated by the FS as to whether the areas now meet old growth criteria. SPBA Forestry Committee member Barry Rosenberg said that the FS "should stay away from old growth areas. Changing the old growth status on paper to enable salvage logging runs contrary to the old growth set-aside program."

Rosenberg also noted that most of the damage to trees happened about 500 feet below the Pend Oreille divide, and that in the Bear Paw pass area a chain of recent clearcuts "probably contributed to the wind shear power of storms to effect damage."

The record level snow pack gave cause to fear that fish and animals would suffer, but according to Grant Brockus at the FS most came through in good shape. The Priest Lake Sportsmen Club and the State Fish and Game Department provided feeding stations at the lake for white tail deer and few were lost. A grizzly bear was seen this spring at Hughes Meadow and eagles were seen on the Upper Priest Lake.

SPBA members and friends seeking to view the extent of the winter damage in one area can follow the Bear Paw Road (FS Road No. 305) at the Falls Inn to just beyond the Washington border to FS Road 318 and turn left. Continue to Bear Paw Ridge about five miles to the northwest, and then take logging roads north to view recent clearcuts and winter storm damage.

VERBATIM

“In recent years, the Forest Service’s timber sales program has proven to be far from a shrewd investment for the American taxpayer. Like the federal government as a whole, it is a program that chronically operates in the red. Take 1994 for example. In that year, timber sales programs on the national forest level lost more than \$176 million, according to a fact sheet prepared by the U.S. General Accounting Office.”

Source: *Inner Voice*, January 1997

Editor's Note:

The report lists the losses of all U.S. forests. The Panhandle National Forest incurred a net taxpayer loss of \$8,248,158.

Members and guests take air tour of Priest Lake Basin

Flyover gives clear view of forests, waters

On May 10, SPBA sponsored an airplane tour of the Priest Lake Basin for local politicians, community leaders and concerned citizens. With the help of Lighthawk (see below) and volunteer pilots John Richardson and Bob Stevens, we were able to schedule several flights from the Sandpoint and Priest River airports.

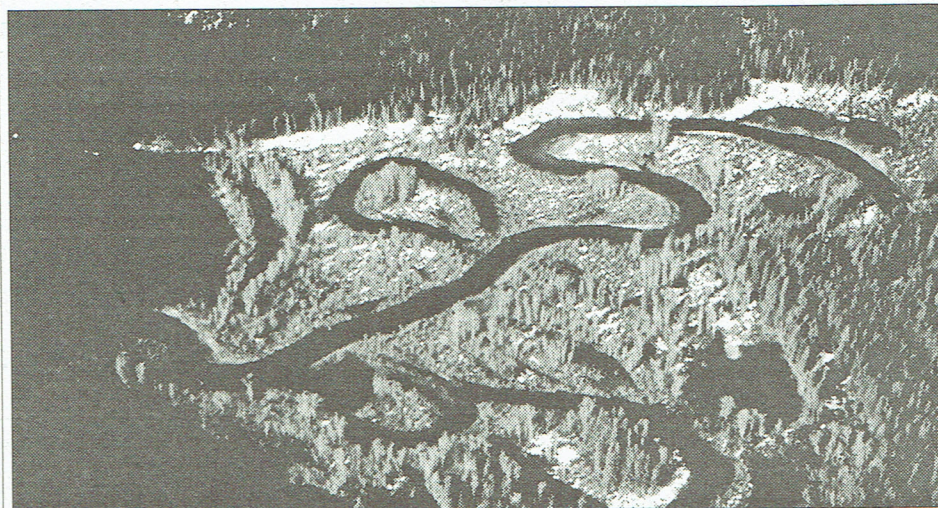
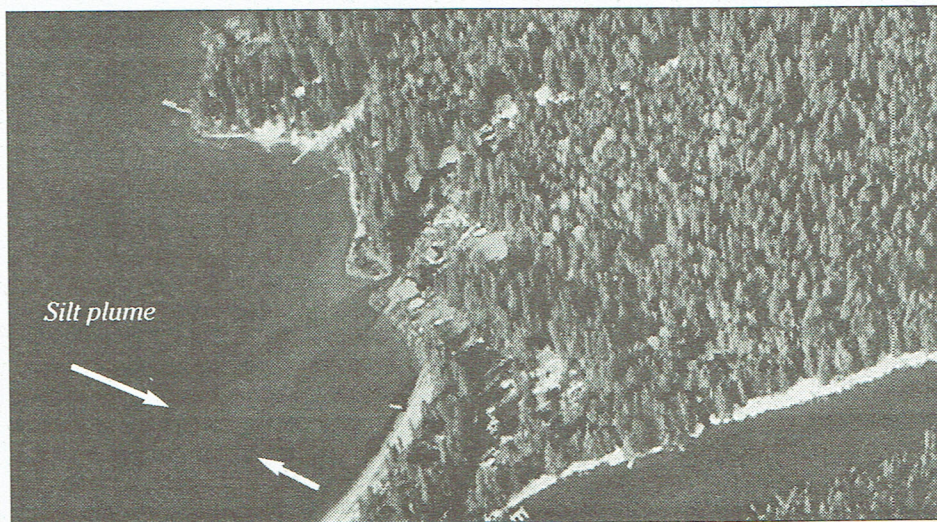
The objective was to give people a view of the "big picture" – the cumulative impacts of irresponsible logging and development on the lake and surrounding forests. While much of the grandeur and beauty remains, the logging of thousands of acres has left many mountainsides scarred with webs of dirt roads and denuded. From the air, the fliers could see sediment plumes flowing into the lake: erosion from reckless development and poorly designed roads.

Participants' reactions to the destruction of the forest lands sheltering Priest Lake ranged from disgust to outrage. Many expressed shock at the extent of the devastation, noting that much of the logging was cleverly designed to escape detection from main travel corridors. In fact, several individuals, upset at what they saw, joined SPBA shortly after their flight.

"Seeing is believing" and "a picture is worth a thousand words" are clichés we hear every day. Sometimes, however, nothing beats a good old cliché when it comes to getting the point across. For those of you unable to participate in our recent series of flights, the photographs in this issue of *Sightlines* provide compelling evidence that our struggle to protect Priest Lake, one of the "last best places," is far from over. If you know friends or neighbors who are concerned about the future of Priest Lake and the Basin, please encourage them to join SPBA.

Office moves to Rivertown Mall

SPBA is on the move. The office is now in Rivertown Mall on the east end of Priest River. Stacy Allen, who is attending college in Newport, has also been hired as a part-time assistant. The office is open only part time; so it is easiest to reach Executive Director Kevin Watson or members of the board by mail or telephone. Both address and phone number remain the same, phone 208/448-2971.



FLYING OVER the Priest Lake Basin gave dramatic views of an embattled watershed. At top, an aerial view of checkerboard cuts at Jackpine Flats on Idaho Department of Land holdings southeast of Priest Lake. Center, sediment flowing from Kalispell Creek into Priest Lake because of heavy spring run-off. Notice silt plume entering lake. Bottom photo, a meandering Upper Priest River flowing into Upper Priest Lake.

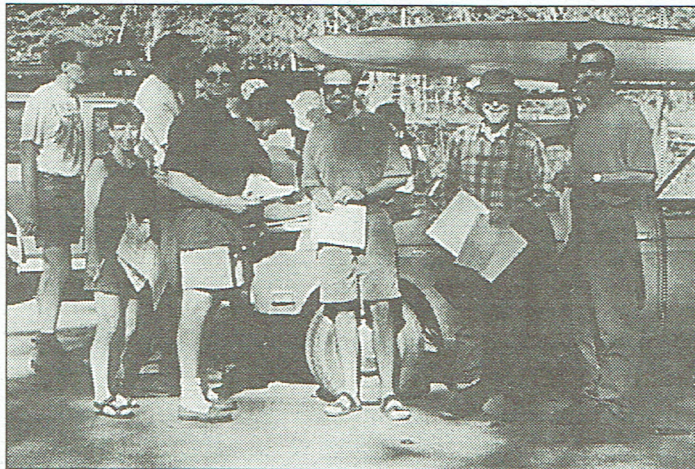
Wildlife Committee organizes survey

SPBA, Forest Service counters find loons

SPBA and the Priest Lake Ranger District joined in a July 20 survey of the loon population on Upper and Lower Priest Lake. Under sunny skies, 18 SPBA members and friends canoed and kayaked around the lake in search of resident loons. While the full count is not yet in, at least six loons were sighted. — five on the upper lake. The surveyors also saw several ospreys, kingfishers, ducks and other wildlife.

After the survey, the SPBA hosted a picnic at Ledgewood. Everyone had a great time, and we look forward to making this an annual event. The survey was one of several the SPBA Wildlife Committee has been sponsoring this summer. We urge SPBA members and their friends to join us in our efforts to protect the Basin's wildlife and critical habitat.

Other projects include grizzly bear "gate monitoring: (checking on road closure gates to see if they have been vandalized or breached) and waterfowl nest platform construction. If you have any other suggestions for wildlife projects or are interested in participating in any of the above activities, please call or write the SPBA office and leave your phone number. We will get in touch with you!



THE LOON SURVEY TEAM made up of SPBA members and volunteers get ready to embark on a survey of the loon population at Priest Lake on July 20.

Senate delays vote

Groups lobby for cut in logging roads subsidies

The Senate will not vote on the Interior Appropriations Bill until after its current recess, giving environmentalists time to build support for a curb on logging road construction.

Sen. Richard Bryan, a Nevada Democrat, plans to introduce an amendment that would sharply reduce the subsidy to logging companies for building the roads. A vote could come as early as Sept. 3.

In July a bi-partisan attempt to reduce the subsidy failed in the House by only two votes, 211 to 209. The Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee later approved the figure recommended by the Administration and passed by the House — \$47 million.

In addition, the Senate committee removed a \$50-million cap on the value of trees that the Forest Service can give loggers in exchange for roads, in effect giving

the Forest Service almost unlimited road building capability. The House had voted to scale back the exchange program.

Environmental lobbyists in Washington are pushing for an amendment on the Senate floor that would both protect roadless areas from construction and reduce the road building funds, said Steve Holmer of the Western Ancient Forest Campaign in Washington, D.C.

Reps. Joe Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat, and John Edward Porter, Illinois Republican, co-sponsored an amendment that would have cut \$41.5 million from the Forest Service's road building budget. The money would build 300 miles of new roads in already densely roaded national forests and to rebuild 2,000 miles of old roads.

It is not known how the appropriations will affect the Panhandle National Forest, according to John Neirinckx, operations

engineer in the Forest headquarters in Coeur d'Alene. Allocations to each forest are made by the regional headquarters after the total funding level is approved by Congress and Forest Service headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Neirinckx said the Panhandle Forest has spent no money directly on new roads for the past several years. Using the credits to logging contractors, it built 12 miles of new roads in fiscal 1995, 1.4 miles in 1996 and 14.4 miles for far in 1997. Also using purchaser credits, the Forest rebuilt 54 miles of roads in fiscal 1995, 42 miles in 1996 and 199.6 so far in 1997.

Rebuilding projects it hopes to do in 1998, the fiscal year beginning this Oct. 1, are placing guardrails on three bridges in the Priest Lake Ranger District and major repairs of two or three bridges in the Sandpoint District.

Book Review

My First Green Book

For children, their parents and other interested adults: *My First Green Book: A life size guide to caring for our environment*. This handsome collection of simple science experiments for children ages 8 to 11, is for children to do alone or with a friend. Each project is explained step by step, illustrated with clear, large color photographs. See a copy at Celebasin; or call the SPBA office, or Karen Schill at 509/922-1165.

— Joanne Hirabayashi

SPBA

- Serves as a monitor when you're not available
- Pools resources for more impact
- Has a history of success
- Is local — you can see your money at work
- Protects important resources
- Is the only group dedicated to addressing multiple issues in the Basin

New group forms to protect Priest Lake

Recent formation of the Priest Lake Association (PLA) creates a welcome addition to forces dedicated to furthering the legacy of Priest Lake. The new association's purpose is to unite the Priest Lake community in sustaining and enhancing the physical, social and economic qualities that make Priest Lake an outstanding place to live and to visit.

Although SPBA and PLA are somewhat different, especially in their geographical areas of concern, their missions are philosophically the same. When Priest Lake issues arise concerning common objectives, the two associations can support each other, providing the benefit of united strength.

Collective membership of both organizations will wield substantial influence. PLA limits its concerns to issues within the

Priest Lake Basin, where it will participate in community matters. It will represent the wishes of Priest Lake property owners concerning lake management; it will help create and promote a vision for development and administration of a long range plan for sound, beneficial management.

SPBA is concerned with natural resource management, sound economic development and long-term public welfare in the entire Priest Lake Basin drainage from Canada to the Pend Oreille River. SPBA monitors, analyzes, evaluates and comments on public land management and policies. It works to resolve conflicts and takes legal action when necessary. SPBA promotes environmental education and community economic development.

Seeing trees:

A new reflection from the old traditional mirror

The last issue of *Sightlines* carried an article on how the timber and other extractive industries are contributing an increasingly smaller proportion of support for Inland Northwest economies. Environmentalists are blamed; yet this has been a slow but constant trend for decades, starting even before environmental requirements were implemented. What's happening is that we have finally come to the place where the rubber hits the road: we are being forced at last to re-evaluate where the economic future of this area lies.

New perspectives require first of all a glance back. Originally, say in the early 1900s, the equation was that there were far more resources than people; unlimited resources, it seemed then.

Policies were put into place which were designed to encourage settlement of the West and to stimulate local economies. The intent was to facilitate the development of ways to exploit natural resources to stabilize small rural, often remote, communities.

But the equation has changed; the balance has shifted. There are now immensely larger numbers of people, many of them with quite different wishes for the forest. There is a lot less forest and it's been cut over considerably by now too. We must reconsider those old policies.

Reassessment is due and overdue. The national economy has shifted away from its traditional manufacturing base, and an amazing new component has transformed the way business is carried out: electronic communication and technology.

"Lone eagles" and "outsourcing" are part of the new vocabulary that traditional timber towns need to learn, as well as a new definition of "natural resources," because economic support from traditional sources isn't there any more, however much one might wish the old days to con-

tinue. American businesses are no longer chained to a single site. The manufacturing of component parts used in a product, along with many services and employees, can be located in any part of the country or in the world. "Outsourcing" refers to the practice of buying or hiring goods, services or information from locations away from the "central office." "Lone eagles" are employees or entrepreneurs whose knowledge is in demand but who can choose to live and work anywhere they like, linked to their company or colleagues by telecomputing technology and by airports.

Ninety percent of Fortune 500 companies outsource at least one function. International Data Corporation predicts that outsourcing will increase 60 percent to a value of \$121 billion by the turn of the century. It has been estimated that 2,600 "lone eagles" move to various parts of Washington state every year. Why not to Idaho? Surely the Priest River Basin could attract a select few of these lone eagles, who may very well set up companies of their own in the future, given some community support and acceptance.

Whether people move here or not, tourism and recreation are bringing an increasing amount of money into the region

these days. Fishing and related activities are worth \$150 million to the state of Idaho, and the demand for fishing and wildlife observation is growing.

Activities such as guiding and outfitting promote related businesses such as the manufacture of outdoor equipment and the publication of specialized sports-related magazines. Development of cross-country skiing, biking and mountain biking are all being considered as income-producing year-round sports for our area. They are especially desirable since these are easy on the environment and an additional firm support for the Basin economy.

Therefore a new definition of "natural resources" is required, because natural resources and the opportunity for quality, unspoiled recreational activities is the major reason people give for coming to the Inland Northwest. In the past a timber-based economy helped us look at a forest and see board feet, 2x4s, jobs and dollar signs. We need to look again and see wildlife, ecosystems, selective sustainable-yield forestry that doesn't leave the land looking like World War II just struck again.

— Joanne Hirabayashi

(Sources available:

call the SPBA office 208/448-2971)



+ SPBA = \$ \$

WANT TO RING UP SAVINGS on your phone bill – and at the same time help SPBA? Then give us a call about signing up for the SPBA's Affinity long-distance service. It works like this: Sign up with Affinity, which will beat the lowest long-distance rates offered by any carrier. Then, each month Affinity will send SPBA a percentage of your monthly billing. SPBA members who have signed on have been pleased with Affinity's service. Currently, SPBA raises more than \$1,200 per year – but we could raise much more. Call our office today at 208/448-2971 for more information or to sign up.

Huck Bay

Continued from page 1

'recreational benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, and for no other purpose.' This new agreement allows private docks on public beaches – a clear violation of the public's rights under the easement, and could compromise the safety of swimmers because it adds more boats near swimming areas.

"They've tried to make it sound like the public got a good deal but the Land Board ignored the Department of Lands' recommendations and gave away the farm – at the expense of Idaho residents."

In 1988, HBC bought 1,565 acres from Diamond Lands Corporation subject to the public recreational easement. The easement was modified in 1991 to protect the pub-

lic's right to use 5,700 feet of shoreline with HBC retaining riparian rights to a 700-foot strip. In testimony before the State Land Board in October 1988, Barbieri, an HBC principal, stated: "You don't tend to get quality development or even quality public space if you end up with a proliferation of docks and a proliferation of shoreline improvements and maybe it would lessen the quality of the shoreline here. And from a developer's perspective, probably even lessen the quality of whatever future development would happen in the whole project."

Evidently after selling parcels of land with the understanding that purchasers could build docks, HBC operators had a change of heart.

"In asking the court to review the agreement, we're asking it to reaffirm the language and intent of the 1991 easement and

to prevent interference with the public recreational use of Huckleberry Bay," said Charles Graham, an attorney for SPBA.

In May 1996, Will Pitman, IDL administrator of the Lake Protection Act, denied HBC's application for a permit to build a 24-slip community dock. That decision was upheld by the department's C. Nicholas Chrome, who heard HBC's appeal. HBC then asked the Land Board to overturn the ruling. In a briefing memorandum the Department of Lands said it is clear that under the easement HBC retained riparian rights only along the 700-foot strip and relinquished its right to build docks on the rest of the shore.

However, soon after a board subcommittee of Controller J.D. Williams and Attorney General Alan Lance began studying the issue the board and HBC reached agreement allowing the more extensive dock construction.

Lakeface logging

Continued from page 1

logging and road building on ecosystem health.

Scientists have acknowledged that logging has created most of the problems on

our public lands and now Forest Service managers propose logging as the solution to those same problems. Past experience, however, suggests logging near Priest Lake will jeopardize the qualities that have made this lake famous throughout the Northwest.

SPBA will be closely monitoring developments on the proposed Lakeface/Lamb

timber sale and will keep our members informed. We suggest that individuals interested in the future of Priest Lake submit comments to:

Kent Dunstan
Priest Lake District Ranger
HCR 5, Box 207
Priest River, ID 83856

The Columbia Basin study results are in Scientists found the cause, planners miss the cure

Four years ago President Clinton ordered federal agencies to "develop a scientifically sound, ecosystem-based management strategy" for Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands in the vast area known as the interior Columbia Basin.

Three years of scientific studies easily documented what has gone wrong in the region's watersheds, forests and grazing lands. But the proposals in the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project don't provide the cure to fit the disease.

The Columbia River Bioregion Campaign in Walla Walla has analyzed all four

proposed alternatives and says all fall short of the steps needed to restore environmental health to the area that includes all of Idaho and portions of Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

The campaign urges people who want a more environmentally sound management plan to write to their members of Congress and the study's environmental impact statement team.

Forest Service and BLM scientists who conducted the study found that logging and grazing have created a wide range of environmental damage. The river campaign group says that the government's preferred

alternative fails to meet the region's needs in half a dozen ways. Among them: doubling current logging levels, allowing logging and grazing in sensitive riparian zones; omitting roadless area protection; failing to help restore fisheries. It also fails to help communities make the economic transition away from resource extraction.

The comment period for the plan ends in late September. Send comments to:

Columbia Basin Plan ICBEMP EIS
TEAM, 112 E. Poplar Street
PO Box 2076,
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Volunteers needed for September work day

Many thanks to all who have participated in SPBA's Adopt-A-Highway Litter Program. Another Pick-Up is planned for late September. If you are interested in lending a hand, please call Amy Daniels at 448-9001 to be added to the volunteer list. Again, thank you to all who have participated in past pick-ups.

SPBA Members receive:

- An opportunity to contribute to the well-being of the Basin
- An opportunity to become an Affinity member and save money on long-distance charges
- A subscription to our newsletter, *Sightlines*



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Old Growth Tour October 4!

The Selkirk-Priest Basin Association invites you to tour old growth forest in the Upper Priest River drainage on Saturday, Oct. 4. Please join us as we celebrate protection of this forest – one of SPBA's proudest accomplishments!

In 1989, the Forest Service proposed to clear-cut much of this 1,200-acre stand, which is one of the largest remaining contiguous old growth stands in the Inland Northwest. The SPBA, with the help of the Audubon Society, alerted the public to the threat to the Upper Priest old growth. Within two weeks of newspaper and TV news accounts, the Priest Lake Ranger District received more than 500 letters and numerous phone calls opposing the proposed clear cutting.

We are honored and fortunate to be guided through this forest by Dr. Arthur Partridge, recently retired University of Idaho professor of forest pathology and

entomology, and his wife Dr. Catherine Bertagnolli. Drs. Partridge and Bertagnolli will explain how forests function and why large old growth areas are important to maintain a fully functional forest.

This is one of those rare opportunities we can all get together and celebrate the beauty of the forest, get to know each other, and learn from Dr. Partridge, who was repeatedly voted "Teacher of the Year" during his tenure at University of Idaho.

We will meet at the Priest Lake Ranger District parking lot (on Highway 57) and depart at 10 a.m. and should be back at the Ranger Station by approximately 2 p.m. Bring hiking shoes, water, and whatever else you need to be comfortable. Please call the SPBA office, (208) 448-2971, if you plan to attend or just want more information. The walk through the woods will be easy, and refreshments will be served.

C A L E N D A R

CELEBASIN '97
Sunday, Aug. 24, 1997

OLD GROWTH TOUR
Saturday, Oct. 4, 1997

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

	Individual dues	Couples
Regular:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30
Living Lightly	<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

SPBA Wish List

The following items would be of great value to SPBA. Can you help?

- IBM printer
- Office chair
- Video camera
- Apartment-size mini-refrigerator
- Storage cabinet

(Contributions are tax-deductible.)

Sightlines Underwriters: We are looking for SPBA members who would like to underwrite individual issues of *Sightlines*. The minimum cost per issue is \$500 and your donation is tax-deductible. More than 600 issues are mailed to members, media representatives and interested parties. Hundreds more are distributed in Bonner County and Spokane.