

# Sight



# Lines

NEWSLETTER OF THE SELKIRK-PRIEST BASIN ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 1999

## Forest Watch

### SPBA monitors 'restoration' projects

*"The sins of the fathers are visited upon the heads of the children."*

Since the introduction of "ecosystem management," SPBA's Forest Committee is constantly being "visited" with the "sins" of the past.

Decades of active fire suppression, hi-grade logging, road building, watershed destruction, wildlife habitat obliteration, and clearcutting have left our forests in shambles.

Since the advent of "ecosystem management," the Forest Service is charged with repairing the damage (and protecting what's left of the undamaged). Consequently, SPBA's Forest Committee must monitor, comment on, and occasionally combat proposed Forest Service projects that are "inconsistent" with the objective of ecosystem restoration or protection.

The following are projects we are currently working on.

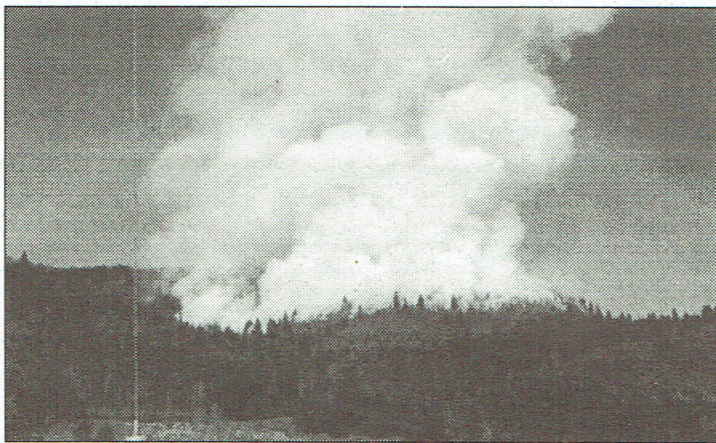
#### STIMSON ANILCA ACCESS PROJECTS

Last year SPBA filed a successful administrative appeal on Stimson Lumber Company and the Forest Service's attempt to force the public to pay part of the

costs of building roads to corporate inholdings on the Sullivan Lake District of the Colville National Forest.

Under provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) the government is required to provide access across public land to private inholders like Stimson Lumber Company. The inholdings in question date back to president Abraham Lincoln's 1862 grant to the railroads of alternating sections of land across vast swaths of the West to help pay for the costs of building rail lines to the coast. The history of corporate fraud and corruption associated with the land grants is

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**FIRE UNDER CONTROL:** The Elk-Pee burn was intended to provide about 360 acres of winter range for elk, deer and moose.

## Gindraux named director emeritus

Born in Miles City, Montana, raised in Spokane and graduated from Lewis and Clark High School, Jules Gindraux enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He was posted in North Africa during World War II and served as an air transport pilot.

After the war Jules remained in the Mideast and continued as a pilot in such exotic places as Cairo, Beirut, Casablanca, etc. He and Emily (Pinky) Miller were married in 1946 and have raised two children: Karen & Craig. From 1950 to his retirement in 1978 Jules worked for Trans World Airlines. The family

next fulfilled a long held dream to live at Priest Lake.

During retirement Jules has served many civic roles, the most important has been that of an active environmentalist with the SPBA and its predecessor organizations. He served as one of the founders of the Concerned Residents of Priest Lake which evolved into the Priest Lake Coalition which in turn became the SPBA. He helped found and served as a director on each organization.

"Dad has always been a hands-on volun-

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*It's time for our*  
**PRIEST LAKE  
CELEBASIN**

*Saturday, Aug. 14  
... See you there!*

Bring the family and friends to SPBA's famous burger cookout and annual membership meeting. Come share a good time with us.

The date to mark is Saturday, Aug 14, 1999, beginning at 2 p.m.

Beaver Creek Group Campground on Priest Lake proved to be such a delightful setting for last years' CeleBasin that we have again selected it for our annual get-together. Highlights will once again include Barbara Batey's enjoyable and informative natural history tour near the campground. If you missed it last year, be sure to show up early (1:30) for an easy, pleasant and enlightening nature walk you're sure to enjoy.

Free overnight camping is also available this year at the group campground. So bring your tent and bags and continue to enjoy the fellowship and Priest Lake. Tent pads, tables, fire circle and horseshoe pads are available. Check out time is 1:00 PM. Sunday Aug. 15.

CeleBasin celebrants are urged to arrive at Beaver Creek around 2:00 Sat. for the annual meeting and election of directors. This year the board will proudly honor SPBA Director Emeritus Jules Gindraux. One of SPBA's founding members, Jules has dedicated over ten years of service to the organization.

SPBA's chair, Directors and

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## Chairman's Message

# *The SPBA at 10: Looking Ahead*

Maybe it's a case of water wearing away the stone, but if you've been following the news you will know that Forest Service policy seems to be taking a new direction, and responding to public demands that national forests be managed for more than timber extraction. Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck has set a moratorium on road building. Gloria Flora, recently supervisor of Montana Lewis and Clark National Forest, now based in Nevada, has stated that Forest Service officials are being encouraged to place a premium on scenery, clean water and air, flood control and soil retention rather than on commodity extraction. (We would add in healthy forests and wildlife habitat.)

And in our own backyard, District Ranger Kent Dunstan's proposal for Priest Lake was among those chosen as a pilot Land Stewardship Project which focuses on work for local loggers and community members and on forest and stream restoration. Time will show how this all works out. Change overall may be uneven and slower than we'd like, but it is change, in spite of strong pressure from timber interests and members of congress such as Larry Craig, Helen Chenoweth, Slade Gorton and George Nethercutt to continue the deeply damaging short-sighted old practices.

But here's the challenge. As the Forest Service begins to redirect itself, we too need to review our strategies. In the past, environmental groups were forced to be adversarial to the Forest Service because the abuses were so blatant. Now we're seeing them make a mix of decisions, some good, some poor, some questionable, and it doesn't make sense just to keep on saying 'wrong,



wrong, wrong.' We need to be specific in our responses.

SPBA works at being a science-based organization. We have always tried to assess each situation as it arose and make an appropriate response. We are proud of our past accomplishments and with the support of you, our members, we have helped save ancient cedars, promoted Priest Lake water purity, encouraged the apprehension of wildlife poachers, reconfigured timber sales and confronted the Idaho State Land Board over Huckleberry Bay marina development. Membership is increasing and we are receiving foundation support for some key activities. We want such successes to continue.

Any effective organization, if it is to remain effective, periodically reviews its goals, resets them and adjusts its perspectives. SPBA recently celebrat-

ed its 10th anniversary, and now is the ideal time for us to take stock. Where should we focus over the next 10 years? What are the best ways to do that? In what ways should we change? What do we need to keep?

When you read this SPBA will have already started the process of reviewing goals and establishing the direction we plan to follow over the next decade. As members you have a stake in these decisions, and the board welcomes your comments and suggestions. Call, write, or e-mail Executive Director Guy Bailey at: gbailey@dm.net You'll hear more about this at Celebasin, Aug. 14.

— Joanne Hirabayashi  
SPBA Chair

## Executive Director's Message

# *SPBA's productive work repays us all*

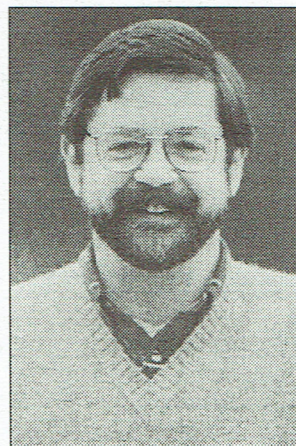
Dear Mom and Dad,  
College is great. Please send money.  
Your loving son.

Sometimes I worry that this is the way we sound to you, our members and supporters, when we send you updates, newsletters or pleas for financial support. I wonder if we are doing a good enough job of keeping you up to date and informed about the good work we are doing on your behalf to protect and preserve the wild beauty of our lakes, streams, forests and mountains. I also wonder whether we are responding appropriately to your concerns about threats you've identified to our beautiful basin—such as water degradation and over-development. Since our members are folks who live/recreate in the Priest Lake Basin, the SPBA can truly claim to be a community supported, community-based organization. That means we must accurately represent your views and concerns if we are to continue earning your support, so please remember that we wel-

come hearing back from you, our members.

This year has been another difficult but rewarding one for us at the SPBA. Our organization has grown significantly, both in size and influence. Our membership numbers are up, several caring local donors have stepped forward to help us pay down our legal bills and fund our office operations, and our wildlife projects are getting more attention from potential grant funders and the media. Securing enough funding for our general operations and our on-the-ground projects is always an annual struggle, so the help of these major donors is hugely important for us.

Many of our members don't live at the lake year round, so it's hard for them to always know the importance of our projects



or understand our need for their financial support. And operating out of a self-described "timber dependent" community with a declining economy makes it very tough for a conservation group like ours to do much successful local fund raising. But we persevere and move forward on a shoe string budget, fueled by the optimism that comes from seeing progress made each year with our clean water campaigns, our wildlife

habitat protection projects, our healthy forests monitoring program and our economic development outreach proposals.

We have expanded our relationships with potential grant funders this year, hoping to relieve our members of some of the burden of financing the SPBA. Dealing

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## Sharon Sorby joins Board of Directors

Sharon Sorby blew into the Pend Oreille Valley on the ash cloud from Mt. St. Helens. Choosing to stay after a summer of working for the Newport Ranger District, she has raised her daughter here while working off and on with the Forest Service. Now she works with the Pend Oreille County Weed Board.

During childhood, her passion for the environment was born from her experiences hiking and camping with her parents throughout the West. Through the years, she has worked on numerous projects and written many letters to save a piece of ground, promote a piece of legislation, or knock one down. Now she feels, "It's time to deepen my commitment, putting more energy where my heart is."

She became a member of SPBA at its

inception; however, due to life changes she and the SPBA lost contact with each other until a year ago. Now, she is happy to be reunited again. "The Association is very busy using science to support a number of exciting projects that will provide more and healthier habitat for our endangered species, as well as teach us all to live better within our landscape."

SPBA is also looking ahead to some changes. Sharon sees these as an opportunity for the Board to increase the Association's focus and vitality and seeks to help move through the transition smoothly.

"I would like to serve on the SPBA Board of Directors to affirm my commitment to the environment while serving an organization that is producing excellent results," she said.



NEW DIRECTOR: Sharon Sorby

## Cooperative programs aim to help lynx, lions

by Tim Layser  
Priest Lake Ranger Dist.

Increased concern about lynx, their habitat and primary prey, which are believed to be snowshoe hare, the Idaho Panhandle National Forest is working on a cooperative project with the University of Idaho, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Dr. John Weaver on a series of projects. One project will be looking extensively at the variety of habitats across the forest including the Priest Lake District. The object of this investigation is to determine snowshoe hare abundance relative to a variety of habitats and successional stages. Another phase of this project is to determine how activities such as precommercial tree thinning within an area inhabited by hares effects how lynx use such areas. The overall goal is to provide a better understanding of the ecology

of snowshoe hares and ultimately lynx within the identified areas. As part of this project, surveys will be conducted using lynx hair snares, which will attempt to secure lynx hair samples which are then used for DNA analysis to determine species, sex and hopefully individuals. This will potentially allow the FS opportunity to gain a better insight of lynx habitat use.

In a cooperative project with Barry Keller from the Idaho State University, the Idaho Panhandle National Forest is looking into various aspects of bat habitat within the area and the occurrence of bats with selected locations. Dr. Keller along with a graduate student will be surveying selected locations using either mist netting or other bat detection methods. Barry is hoping to locate roost sites for some of our rare bat species.

The FS is cooperating with the Univer-

sity of Idaho, the Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in the survey of amphibians and reptiles within Northern Idaho. The surveys are being conducted by Dr. Chuck Peterson and his assistant. They are hoping to document new locations of some of our rare amphibians and also to monitor areas where certain species have been located in the past.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forest is also involved in a cooperative effort with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colville National Forest and the British Columbia Ministry of Environments. The project involves radio collaring and monitoring mountain lions in order to get a better understanding on mountain lion habitat relationships within the area inhabited by the endangered mountain caribou.

## VERBATIM

### A Beaver Backlash

In April the National Park Service removed a family of beavers that was gnawing down the cherry trees surrounding Washington, D.C.'s famed Tidal Basin.

Coming to the rodents' defense was Representative Helen Chenoweth, Idaho Republican and persistent critic of the Endangered Species Act. Chenoweth petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the hitherto unrecognized subspecies of "Tidal Basin Beaver" under the ESA.

"Although the family may have damaged some Japanese cherry blossom trees," wrote Chenoweth, "this is no different

than the economic disruption caused by [the] Gray Wolf's property destruction happening in Idaho. . . . Species found inside the Washington, D.C. beltway should enjoy no less protection than those in the West."

In fact, the "economic disruption" caused by wolves in Idaho amounts to \$15,801 in lost livestock—all of which was reimbursed by Defenders of Wildlife. No offer yet from Chenoweth to replace the fallen cherry trees.

—Paul Rauber

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# *Native Flora ... or Noxious Weeds?*

*Lacking natural inhibitors, exotic plants can overtake our native ecosystems*

By Sharon Sorby

So what is the hullabaloo about weeds, noxious or exotic? At what level should we be concerned? What are the risks of letting nature take her course or spraying weeds with herbicides? What are the implications for ecosystem health or even human health?

First of all, "noxious weed" is a legal designation that may or may not have any implications for our native ecosystems. Noxious weeds are exotic — coming from somewhere else. They come to our area free of the insects and diseases that keep them in check in their country of origin.

All exotics are not created equally. We tend to place human judgment upon them as to whether they are good or bad; however, I would like to look at them from the perspective of the native ecosystem. From that viewpoint, exotics are benign or harmful.

There are many exotics in our area, but I would like to narrow this discussion to those exotics, noxious weeds, that are harmful to our native ecosystem. The health of our native flora determines the level of support for our endangered wildlife. The health of their habitat is a value that drives my interest and decisions in weed control.

Yellow or Meadow hawkweed, *Hieracium caespitosum*, is an example of a pernicious exotic that can invade a mountain meadow, or even the floor of a mostly closed canopy forest. It can quickly form a dense carpet that smothers other plant life, while providing no habitat value. The invasion of this weed into our area has reached extreme levels. The best strategy for controlling it is to prevent it from invading areas where it is not present, eradicate pioneering infestations, and contain established populations.

So what do I mean by "weed control?" That we should "nuke" them into the last century? Hardly. There are many tools that allow us to control the impact of weeds on our native ecosystem. We can prevent them, pull them, dig them, mow them, tarp them, fertilize them, cultivate them, introduce their natural controls (that have been carefully screened), and yes, spray them.

We make our best weed control choices when we understand the biology of the weed species, the type of site where it occurs and the biology of the native plants that also occupy the site, or at least should. Almost without variance, when managing weeds, it is best to combine control methods that optimize killing the weeds while promoting the ecosystem health and minimizing collateral damage.

So why must we control the invasion of weeds? Why can't we allow nature to take her course? Through observation over the last few decades, we can tell that the weeds are too strong an adversary to our native plant communities. Nature can not rebalance herself into healthy habitat after a weed invasion. Quite frankly, since we caused the problem through their importation, it is our responsibility



**HAWKWEED HORRORS:** Above, hawkweed crowds out native flora in a forest opening; the dog just happened by to give perspective. At left, a close-up of a hawkweed bloom. Hawkweed has invaded some areas in extreme proportions.

ty to best rectify our mistakes.

When we work to "save" an area of value to us, we usually work to stave-off development — the number one cause of loss to habitat and the health of our native ecosystems. The second cause in magnitude is the invasion of harmful noxious weeds. Every day we lose 4,600 acres of publicly owned habitat to the invasion of noxious weeds. Once the habitat becomes overtaken by weeds, it is irreparable. The only opportunity to act on behalf of preservation is before the weeds

become established.

So, what would drive us to spray "toxic" herbicides in our precious native environment? Fortunately, due to the years of pressure from the environmental community, herbicide manufacturers have responded by developing chemistry that has low toxicity and is effective at extremely low rates of application. Sometimes the site of a pioneering weed invasion is so sensitive, that other means of managing the population would be more detrimental than spraying the individual plants.

Again, there are valid reasons for controlling weeds that are invading our native ecosystems. Choosing the best methods to employ in carrying out a control program requires an understanding of the plants involved, the type of site, and the methods of control available. After that, we continue our vigilance in improving those tools of control available to us.



## These are folks who help SPBA move ahead

**W**e would like to take a moment to thank people whose efforts this last year have especially helped the SPBA move forward with its various projects. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to:

Tyson White for all of his efforts to create and maintain a professional looking website for the SPBA; Mary Lantrip at Lazer Graphics in Sandpoint for hours and hours of patient help keeping our aging Macintosh computers running; Sean Collins of Moscow and the Idaho Conservation League for his long distance, creative computer tech assistance; Keokee Publishing and Selkirk Press for making us look so good on paper (this newsletter); Bob Ulrich for previous web-site assistance;

USFS wildlife biologists Tim Bertram and Tim Layser for helping us get better educated about the South Selkirk mountain caribou herd; Sen. Larry Craig for helping us create publicity by seeking to cut funding for the survival of the last

mountain caribou herd in the U.S.—the South Selkirk herd; Kent Dunstan, Priest Lake District Ranger for making room at the table for us on a new and innovative forest stewardship contract project; volunteer Roberta Ulrich for her detailed research on the history of state lands;

Attorneys Hoey Graham of Moscow and Paul Vogel of Sandpoint for both their courtroom brilliance and their patience in getting paid; Pend Oreille Brew Pub in Sandpoint for slaking our thirsts at last year's CeleBasin and for doing so again this year; Patagonia, Inc. for donating an expensive and beautifully crafted waterproof anorak to us for our membership development raffle;

Babs and Bill Egolf for donating a side of beef to us for a fundraiser; Bob Harwood for the lovely framed fish print donated to us for use at the Priest Lake Chamber of Commerce auction; Wildlife Committee volunteer Mark Sprengel for

his countless hours of careful research and thoughtful commentary on wildlife and forestry issues;

### A card of thanks to our many supporters

Board "emeritus" Jules Gindraux for working with our major donors and for starting the new SPBA Advisory Board; our incredibly hardworking board of directors for all of their volunteer work on water quality, economic development, public relations, public education projects; and new board member Sharon Sorby for having the courage and dedication to join forces with us.

And lastly, we thank the following groups for their funding support this past year:

The Ruth Mott Foundation, the Margaret W. Reed Foundation, the Global Environment Project Institute, the Harder Foundation, the Yellowstone-to-Yukon Council, the LaSalle Adams Foundation and the Kootenai Environmental Alliance.

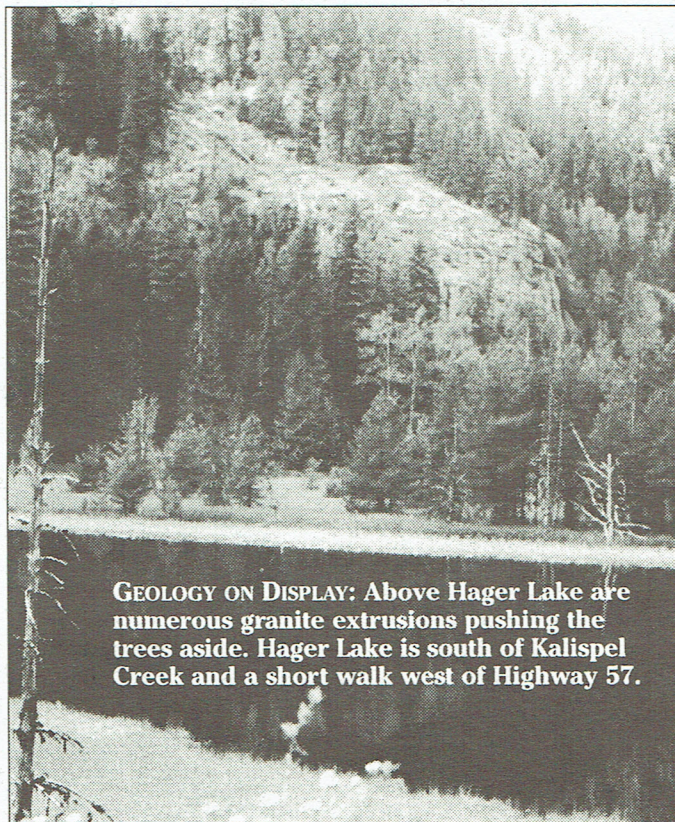
## Making sense of the Selkirks: A geology primer

by Kate Batey

**I**daho has some of the best rocks we have ever seen, and some of the loveliest and most interesting landscapes. Those rocks and landscapes are the raw materials of geology, as well as the basic underpinning and natural setting for everything that lives in Idaho. Knowing them makes sense of everything else. What is scenery, if not rocks with trees growing on them?"

The book, *Roadside Geology of Idaho*, by Alt & Hyndman, from which the above is quoted, provides fascinating information about the Panhandle geology.

Nothing has left an easy hand on the Selkirk Priest Basin. By looking around one can make some order of it. The tectonic plates moved. The Belt sediments piled up. The granite magma gushed. The Kaniksu Batholith and the Purcell Trench enclosed the Basin. Fault zones gave up gold, silver, lead, copper and zinc. Glaciers ground, flooded and receded. The lakes filled. The plants, the animals, the people came.



**GEOLOGY ON DISPLAY:** Above Hager Lake are numerous granite extrusions pushing the trees aside. Hager Lake is south of Kalispel Creek and a short walk west of Highway 57.

Flatheads seasonally came to the Basin to harvest roots, berries, fish and later, lead for bullets. They chiseled in petroglyphs on rocks around the lake.

After the whites discovered the rich ores, the Native Americans were not so frequent nor so welcome.

A.K. Klockman in his diary about the Continental Mine above Priest Lake tells of the hapless Indian who made the mistake of spitting in the frying pan at one of the stops on the route to the mine. He was shot dead for it.

Mining times gave way to homeowners and tourists who have mightily loved the rocks, trees and mountains. They have left and are leaving their signature on the scene.

Along the Pend Oreille River between Priest River and Laclede it's easy to read the Kaniksu Batholith in the beautifully exposed shists and gneiss and beyond to Sandpoint, the bedrock granite, the raw material for the Selkirk Priest Basin which we

Before they went to the reservations, the Kalispels, Kootenais, Colvilles and earnestly husband.



# Our forests can produce more than timber

by Joanne Hirabayashi

In a recent poll taken by the Forest Service, 59 percent of those expressing an opinion opposed timber sales and other commodity production (such as mining) in national forests.

From 1992 to 1997, according to General Accounting Office figures, Americans paid \$2 billion to support commercial logging in these forests.

Why do we keep on letting private industry profit from forests which belong to all of us, and even worse, subsidize their efforts through our taxes?

The standard industry answer is that the country needs wood products. Since national forests overall produce only 4 percent of the needed wood, and since recreation (including hunting and fishing) now con-

tributes \$40 to the national economy for each dollar generated by logging, we need to demand a better answer.

The hard truth is that although the Forest Service has been responsible for serious abuses over the past 45 years, the way our forests are managed is to a large extent determined by Congress. Congressional representatives from Washington and Idaho who actively shape policy to exploit national forests at public expense, and for industry profit, include George Nethercutt, Slade Gorton, Helen Chenoweth and Larry Craig, author of the infamous Salvage Logging rider of a few years past. They are strongly supported by timber industry contributions.

These are powerful figures in the management of national forests, and in the past the Forest Service has danced to the tunes

they play.

If we want to reshape the way our tax money is currently spent for cutting down our public forests rather than preserving what's left of them, Congress is the key, the lever that will shift policy. We have to keep informing our representatives about what we expect of them. Two paragraphs would do it – it's no major chore.

To make this easier, SPBA would like to set up an e-mail network so we can let our members know when it's time to write, whom to address, what the issue is and possible outcomes.

Continued pressure on Congress from voters will help to overcome continued pressures from the timber industry and help us insist that our tax dollars are spent the way we choose.

## Director's Message

*Continued from page 2*

with private foundations can also be challenging, when a group works almost exclusively on local issues like we do. One foundation turned down our request for help after a site visit to Priest Lake, saying they thought we were too small to make much of a difference here!

Ironically, a recent article about U.S. environmental groups in *Outside* magazine, in April, said the opposite is true today, pointing out that, "these days it's often the local warriors who've got the juice." The write-up noted "small groups can pivot and change focus quickly" as needed, with local groups making "good use of the courts, the media, the Internet and the public."

Those statements accurately describe the SPBA and its progress and successes this last year. We've set up an improved Internet website ([www.spbainc.org](http://www.spbainc.org)), we've gotten three national publications interested in doing stories on our mountain caribou herd and we are headed to the state supreme court on a case (the HBC docks case) that has already set an important new precedent establishing a stronger right for citizen watchdog groups to challenge the State Land Board's bad land use policies.

We also have greatly expanded our networking with other regional conservation groups in Idaho, Washington, Montana and Western Canada, giving us a bigger, stronger voice when we speak on issues impacting our threatened basin. For example, we were asked to join the Yellowstone-to-Yukon Council this year and did so, adding coverage of the south Selkirk Mountains to an impressive, combined international effort to protect wildlife habitat in the last wild areas of North America.

Even more importantly, this spring the

SPBA was added to the International Technical Committee for Mountain Caribou Recovery as a formal member and participant. Other members of the Technical Committee include wildlife biologists from the Washington Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, British Columbia Ministry of Environment, University of Idaho and Washington State University. We are the sole environmental organization sitting on that committee today, working on publicizing the plight of our declining South Selkirk caribou herd and raising private money for scientific studies on herd predation, habitat use and caribou migration patterns.

On the clean water front, we filed detailed comments with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency attacking Idaho's failure to adequately protect our northern watersheds under Sec. 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act. Local watershed health, and thus protection of Priest Lake's pristine water quality is perhaps the most important issue of concern to many of our members and visitors, especially as lake interface over-development threats loom on the horizon. Fortunately, the EPA seemed to agree with some of the criticisms we raised on too-high stream temperatures and on the DEQ's stream health analysis methods. Just last month in fact, the EPA publicly rebuked the DEQ for using questionable stream sampling techniques and for failing to properly address high stream temperatures in evaluating the health of Idaho's watersheds.

Watershed health is a critically important component of the intricate web of life of all things that exist in our basin. Sometimes we forget or simply fail to understand how interdependent our fragile ecosystems are. A recent article in Audubon magazine

points out this interconnectivity. The article states that overfishing in the Bering Sea has sharply reduced natural food sources for seals and sea lions, whose populations have suffered and plummeted. The decline in those pinnipeds populations has in turn caused killer whales, which normally feed greatly on seals and sea lions, to switch their diets to include more sea otters. This in turn has resulted in a 90 percent decline in the number of sea otters since 1990.

As a result of the otters' decline, the sea urchin, a popular food of the otters, has exploded in population, wreaking havoc on the sea's rich kelp forests—the preferred food of the urchins. Since these formerly plentiful kelp forests normally help sustain everything from barnacles to bald eagles, the dissipation of the kelp beds will next become a threat to the health of these other creatures. And on and on it goes as an entire ecosystem starts to completely unravel.

Perhaps this clear example of biological interconnectivity can help us all better understand the importance of the SPBA fighting to protect wild, native trout populations in our lakes' tributaries by challenging the DEQ on issues involving aquatic habitat and high stream temperatures. Much of our east side state forest is over-logged and over-loaded, causing greater snowmelt and rain runoff erosion in those watersheds, causing a sharp increase in the sedimentation of our streams, causing stream temperatures to increase by trapping the heat of the sun, causing temperature-sensitive wild trout to suffer and decline, causing?

Well, you know: At a minimum, poor fishing at one end; on the other, the listing of bull trout as endangered.

Guy Bailey  
Executive Director



# Forest Watch

*Continued from page 1*

voluminous and the legacy of these "checkerboard" sections has resulted in fragmented wildlife habitat, a spider web of roads, and massive clearcuts across the western United States.

Stimson's and the Forest Service's proposed activities were slated to take place in prime habitat for a number of threatened and endangered (T&E) species such as grizzly bear, mountain caribou, bull trout, gray wolves and lynx (proposed). The Forest Service proposal also threatened to cut a road into an old growth area as well as construct other roads on extremely unstable soils above streams in the area.

While our appeal was successful and the project was halted, Stimson and the Forest Service have recently come back with yet another proposal to log and build roads in the area. SPBA will be in the forefront to stop this proposal as well. While we are prepared to appeal and/or seek legal remedies, we have also been exploring the possibility of working out a land exchange whereby Stimson would trade this valuable habitat for fragmented Forest Service parcels of lesser value to wildlife.

The corporate welfare "sins of the past" have visited us on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest as well. Stimson has come up with a similar proposal to build roads on the Priest Lake Ranger District to access other company property. This particular project involves building a road through an inventoried roadless area and would significantly impact threatened grizzly bear and other species.

SPBA members can be assured that we will actively work to stop this assault on public land and critical wildlife habitat as well. Interested SPBA members are urged to call or write the Forest Service (208-443-2512) and Stimson Lumber Company (503-

357-2131) and express their concerns.

## LAKEFACE-LAMB:

The Forest Service's stated objective for the Lakeface/Lamb project is to reduce fire hazards in the wildland/urban interface. This area is characterized by dense forests and rapidly failing plantations which pose some fire risk.

Historic fire suppression, the planting of off-site trees in plantations, excessive road building, hi-grade logging, and loss of snags and other wildlife habitat are all "past sins" which are now coming home to roost.

While SPBA has serious reservations about the efficacy of Forest Service activities to reduce hazards in this area we nevertheless recognize concerns managers have about wild fire in interface areas. Of more concern perhaps is the possibility of "off-site" plantation stock hybridizing with native trees and reducing the genetic hardiness of native stock. We will continue to monitor Forest Service activities in the area to ensure compliance with project constraints and environmental laws.

## BARK BEETLE PROJECT:

This project, covering almost 25,000 acres, has been the most debated proposal to come from the Forest Service in several years. Past Forest Service management is largely responsible for forests that are significantly altered from historic conditions.

Fire suppression and hi-grade logging have reduced several species like western larch, western white pine and ponderosa pine and allowed more shade tolerant species like Douglas-fir, grand fir, hemlock and cedar to increase their representation in forest composition. The rampant logging of old growth trees has also eliminated much structural diversity and critical habitat in the forest environment.

The shift in species composition and age classes has resulted in forests being more homogenous in structure and less resilient to disturbances like wildfires and insect

outbreaks. This situation contributes to epidemic episodes like the current Douglas-fir outbreak.

Historic road building and clearcutting activity have also created unstable watersheds and degraded fish habitat which the Forest Service is attempting to ameliorate using revenues from logging the "infested" Douglas-fir.

While SPBA finds merit in some of the proposed Forest Service activities, we also have reservations about other aspects of this project. The final Environmental Impact Statement is due in midsummer, and we will develop a response at that time.

## ELK-PEE BURN:

On a more positive note, the Forest Service recently burned about 360 acres of winter range for elk, deer and moose on Quartz Mountain between the Lower West Branch and the lower Priest River about 10 miles north of the town of Priest River.

SPBA enthusiastically supported this project and urged the Forest Service to pursue further prescribed burning projects in the future.

## SALMO FMA PLAN:

SPBA is also following the development of a fire management plan for the Salmo-Priest Wilderness. Fire is a crucial component of the forest environment and we support environmentally sound projects which attempt to reintroduce fire in forest ecosystems.

We have also submitted comments on Forest Service attempts to reduce noxious weed infestations in the Wilderness. The spread of invasive species is a rapidly growing problem and constitutes perhaps the single greatest threat to biological diversity. We have been in contact with several scientists from around the Northwest in an attempt to aid development of a model which would be able to quantify invasive plant impacts on the forest environment.

# Gindraux

*Continued from page 1*

teer," said his daughter Karen. "He worked tirelessly to protect the lake, using legal remedies, water monitoring, public education, political lobbying, fund-raising and other means to achieve SPBA's goals," she said.

The Board of Directors of SPBA conferred the title of Director Emeritus of SPBA on Jules



earlier this year.

Joanne Hirabayashi, Chairman of the Board, said, "Jules continues to do good work for the SPBA. He and Pinky have moved to Hayden Lake where he now serves by concentrating on the development of an Advisory Board of people in the region to support SPBA. Jules' contributions to the lake and basin have been unique, impressive and on-going."

# CeleBasin

*Continued from page 1*

Executive Director have been very busy this past year with legal and forestry issues. They will be on hand and happy to discuss the groups activities and accomplishments. Committee reports will be interesting and brief. At the meetings conclusion, we will provide free food and beverages plus a keg of local micro-brew.

To reach Beaver Creek follow Hwy. 57 north to Nordman, turn right on Reeder Bay Rd. and drive to the end of the road, about 10 miles.



# Selkirk-Priest Basin Association

P.O. Box 1809

Priest River, ID 83856

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## PRIZE DRAWING!

### Help SPBA Celebrate 10 Years of Working to Protect the Wild Beauty of Priest Lake.

FILL OUT THIS FORM IN ITS ENTIRETY AND MAIL IT BACK TO US BEFORE AUGUST 13, 1999 TO WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES!

**1ST PRIZE:** A BEAUTIFUL, WATER RESISTANT, BREATHABLE "BACK BOWL" ANORAK SHELL (size lrg) donated by PATAGONIA. Perfect for snowboarding, skiing, hiking or boating in the rain. Retail value, \$240!

**2nd—5th PRIZES:** A ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO "E" MAGAZINE, the premier U.S. Environmental Magazine, and a ONE YEAR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP in the SELKIRK-PRIEST BASIN ASSOCIATION. Prizes valued at \$55 each.

name \_\_\_\_\_

address/Summer \_\_\_\_\_

(city) \_\_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_ (zip) \_\_\_\_\_

address/Winter \_\_\_\_\_

(city) \_\_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_ (zip) \_\_\_\_\_

phone: (summer) \_\_\_\_\_ (winter) \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: SPBA, BOX 1809; PREIST RIVER, ID 83856. ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 13, 1999 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR DRAWING. ONE ENTRY PER HOUSEHOLD. NO FACSIMILES ACCEPTED. DRAWING IS AT OUR ANNUAL CELEBASIN PARTY ON AUGUST 14, 1999. YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN. SPBA EMPLOYEES, OFFICERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS NOT ELIGIBLE.

## Join the SPBA

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

**O**ur newsletter, funded by member contributions, keeps you informed of natural resource issues within the Priest Basin, and reports on the work of SPBA to promote environmental excellence.

Your contribution helps us in our work. 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
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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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P.O. BOX 1809  
PRIEST RIVER, ID 83856