

SightLines

Winter 2006

Newsletter of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance

Priest Lake Water Quality Program

Join SCA's Priest Lake milfoil busters team this summer. Selkirk Conservation Alliance is forming a volunteer team to assist the Selkirk Cooperative Weed Management Area with an aquatic plant survey.

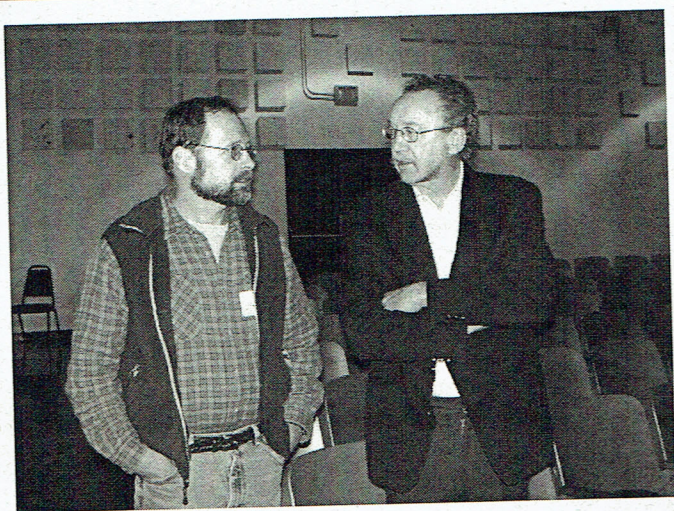
SCA volunteers will help survey for aquatic plants at boat launches and marinas around Priest Lake. Training will take place in early July and the survey will continue through August. Volunteers will have flexibility on the days and times they survey and will not be required to eradicate weeds.

Team members will be trained to collect data and samples of the aquatic vegetation, involving labeling samples and filling out a survey card. The information will be collected and delivered to a weed specialist for

identification. If necessary, professionals or volunteers who are certified scuba divers and trained in removal methodology, will remove milfoil where it is discovered.

The Selkirk Cooperative Weed Management Area is a group of local agency personnel and private landowners working to inform the public about noxious weeds and implementing management projects to prevent specific weeds from spreading through counties in northern Montana, Idaho and Washington.

Please contact Christy LaFayette if you are willing to volunteer for this survey. Local agencies don't have the resources to survey every boat launch and marina. We need your help to identify areas of infestation for prompt response. Milfoil has not been identified in Priest Lake to date, but nutrient loading, a natural phenomenon to some extent, has caused plant growth previously not seen. Not all aquatic plants are noxious, but milfoil spreads at alarming rates once established. Donations will help with supplies, signage and also help expand this program to other areas in 2007.



Snowmobiles & Woodland Caribou

SCA December 8 symposium 'Snowmobiles and Woodland Caribou.' Guest speaker, Dr. Brian Horejsi, research wildlife biologist and SCA executive director, Mark Sprengel.

On December 21, SCA and other plaintiff groups won a preliminary injunction banning snowmobile trail grooming within habitat designated crucial for the protection and recovery of woodland caribou, the most endangered large mammal in North America. SCA's 3-year aerial monitoring program was instrumental in bringing this action.

Computer Geeks and Office Experts — Here's Your Chance to Help SCA

SCA has a growing office staff and consequently, we are also needing new equipment. If any of our members work in offices where some of these items may be traded off or surplus, it would be a great benefit to SCA if arrangements could be made for their acquisition.

For new items that you may be able to help with, the SCA Board of Directors has started a new equipment fund. The Board of Directors has contributed \$100 and we are asking our members to add to this special fund towards the purchase of an urgently needed laptop computer.

Your contribution will be greatly appreciated, and as always, is tax-deductible.

- Power point projector
- Digital camera with telephoto
- GPS
- Laptop computer
- High-speed copier

Board of Directors:

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Sharon Sorby

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Fundraising

Liz Sedler
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Mikki Ravenscroft
Office Manager

Amy Daniels
Highway Program

Kate Drum
Newsletter Design/Layout

It's getting crowded around here.

When I started as executive director there was only one part-time staffer. Now, there are five of us and the office is looking rather small. The addition of new staff was a necessary step towards fulfilling our mission and meeting the ever-expanding workload that now confronts us. Talented additions to our SCA family give us the capacity to undertake exciting new projects and special events as well as offering our members expanded opportunities to become involved in volunteer activities. There have been a number of changes since our last newsletter so I'll try to keep the introductions brief.

First, SCA welcomes the return of Mikki Ravenscroft. Mikki started with us as our Office Manager in 1997 and kept things running smoothly right up to October of 2004 when she left to explore other employment opportunities. After a year's hiatus, she has now returned to SCA. We've taken the precaution of chaining her to her desk so I am confident she will be with us for a very long time to come.

Fund-raising is probably the greatest single challenge to keeping a nonprofit organization up-and-running and the addition of Barbara Williams to the staff will allow us to focus more time and resources on this difficult but necessary task. Barbara was the Living Green program manager for Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs (SNAP) before coming to SCA. As a VISTA volunteer and later as the first Program Manager, Barbara started SNAP's Living Green program. She has both volunteered and worked for several conservation groups in the Spokane area and has a Masters in Public Administration from Eastern Washington University.

Communications and outreach is another area that we will be emphasizing in the future and Christy Lafayette will be in charge of our greatly expanded program to reach out to surrounding communities in North Idaho and eastern Washington. Christy has a Degree in Natural Resources and trained as a technician in parks and recreation, wildlife, soils and forestry. She has a degree in Urban and Regional Planning and has worked as a long range planner in Spokane County as well as an Organizer for Futurewise in Washington which is a statewide nonprofit focusing on growth management issues. Christy also serves on the Board of Supervisors for the Pend Oreille Conservation District and is a Board Member of Pend Oreille Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Public lands issues have been a focal point for SCA since its inception. Liz Sedler is our new Forest Programs Director and has agreed to take on this important job contingent upon her being able to successfully juggle numerous other obligations. Liz is one of the most talented and knowledgeable activists I know and SCA is very fortunate to have her on staff. Liz has been working on forest-related issues since 1987 beginning as a volunteer and later serving for almost 7 years as a board member of The Lands Council in Washington and almost 8 years on the board of the Alliance for Wild Rockies in Montana. Liz's knowledge of science and environmental law will greatly strengthen our ability to achieve our public lands objectives.

Finally, we regret losing Karen Carpenter to the wilds of Spokane. Karen very generously agreed to take the Office Manager position on a part-time basis commuting from her summer cabin on Priest Lake until a permanent replacement could be found. Karen sacrificed a good chunk of her summer to help us keep things going here in the office when she undoubtedly would rather have been kayaking or hiking. Her unfailing cheerfulness will be sorely missed.

I'm confident that SCA members will be pleased with the expanded programs and



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For more in-depth articles,
photographs and links, go to
our website
at www.scawild.org

ED's message continued —

projects we're undertaking. We have a talented and enthusiastic staff as well as an active and growing group of very capable volunteers. SCA's staff additions and expanded capacity are in large measure attributable to the remarkable support of our friends and members. I know of no other organization that enjoys such a loyal and supportive membership and it is deeply appreciated by the SCA board and staff.

Thank you! Mark

Abelson Scholarship

Members of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance, I just wanted to thank you for selecting me as the recipient of the Abelson Fellowship Award. This honor has given me two things. One, a great scholarship to help me further my education. And second, a chance to deepen my love and respect for my home, Priest Lake and the surrounding area. The fight to preserve her precious gifts is a long hard battle but one that I will now proudly fight in. Thank you so much for the educational opportunity and for the financial support.

Sincerely, Michelle Booth

Highway Cleanup

Just before the first snow in 2005, SCA volunteers worked to beautify four miles of highway. Two miles along Highway 211 near Newport, Washington and two miles along Highway 57 near Priest Lake, Idaho are much cleaner due to the efforts of Kate Drum and Amy Daniels, dedicated members who organize work parties twice per year. If you are willing to help, please contact SCA and we will keep you informed when the dates are set for 2006.



Join the SCA

Support the Selkirk Conservation Alliance
by becoming a Member!

Our newsletter, funded entirely by member contributions, keeps you informed of natural resources issues within the Inland Northwest, and offers regular updates on the efforts of the SCA to promote environmental excellence. Now is the time to give to the environment that sustains us all.

Make a contribution and keep SightLines coming regularly. Dues and donations are tax-deductible.

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

	Individual	Family
Regular	<input type="radio"/> \$30	<input type="radio"/> \$35
Limited Income (living lightly)	<input type="radio"/> \$15	<input type="radio"/> \$20

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

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ other ____

TSHIRTS & MUGS \$15 each + \$3 shipping/handling
☐ SCA mug ☐ SCA t-shirt

Name(s) _____

Winter address (dates) ____/____/____ to : ____/____/____

phone: _____

Summer address (dates) ____/____/____ to : ____/____/____

phone: _____

Email address: _____

Mail to: SELKIRK CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

SCA Litigation and Legal Action

Grizzly Bear Access Lawsuit: (attorneys—Earth Justice Legal Defense) Court date—Pending.

Caribou ESA Lawsuit: (attorneys—Advocates for the West & Defenders of Wildlife) Preliminary Injunction successful. Snowmobile grooming program in mountain caribou habitat halted by federal judge. Court date-May 06.

Idaho Panhandle National Forest Freedom of Information Act: complaint (attorneys—Center for Justice) Successful action, IPNF conceded to SCA claims.

Defamation Issue—Priest River Times Newspaper: (attorneys—Center for Justice) Successful. Apology printed in Times newspaper.

Idaho Department of Lands ESA Lawsuit: "On hold"—pending negotiations.

SCA Projects

- Hughes Meadows: US Forest Service, Priest Lake Ranger District: Rental cabin and parking area in grizzly bear habitat. Forest Service withdraws rental cabin proposal.
- Geophysical: USFS, Newport Ranger District: Administrative Appeal filed. Decision due 2/06.
- Comments on numerous other Forest Service Timber Sales submitted on Priest Lake, Sandpoint, and Bonners Ferry Ranger Districts, Idaho Panhandle National Forests and Newport and Sullivan Lake Ranger Districts, Colville National Forest. Also on Idaho Department of Lands Timber Sales, Priest Lake State Forest.
- Forest Plan Revision: IPNF Draft.
- Inventoried Roadless Areas: Comments submitted.
- SCA Aerial Monitoring Program: Ongoing.
- Lower West Branch TMDL: Ongoing.
- SCA Symposia Series: Events scheduled in March
- SCA Outings: Events in planning.
- SCA Milfoil & Water Quality Program: Beginning Program.

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