



SIGHTLINES

Newsletter of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance

Winter 2009-10

HYDROPOWER WORKING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

By Jerry R. Boggs, Biologist

Previous articles in Sightlines have presented information on all the hydropower projects going on in the Pend Oreille River. Different levels of planning and project implementation are going on at Albeni Falls Dam, Box Canyon Dam and Boundary Dam, managed by different entities, i.e. the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps), Pend Oreille Public Utilities District (PUD) and Seattle City Light (SCL) respectively. The Army Corps is, for example, looking at installation of a fish ladder at Albeni Falls Dam to allow downstream and upstream passage of native salmonids, i.e. west-slope cutthroat trout, bull trout and mountain whitefish. The PUD has a brand-new 50-year license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and will soon implement a variety of projects that will improve conditions for native fish, including stream restoration to over 200 miles of tributaries flowing into the Box Canyon Reservoir.

Report from the Board Chair

by Joanne Hirabayashi

On August 8th, Celebasin, our annual membership meeting, was held at the Grange Hall in Coolin, Idaho. Every Celebasin is always a combination of the usual and the unusual and this year's get-together was no exception. The usual of course was the yearly report on SCA's activities and accomplishments given by director Mark Kabush.

The unusual part of the program was a demonstration of herding-dog abilities complete with the obligatory herd of sheep! SCA director Randy Curless provided both the dogs and sheep and we're pleased to report the dogs, sheep, (and Randy) performed flawlessly.

Finally, the event concluded with our yearly auction. This year's event was the best ever as items donated by

The main issue however, for this article, is the progress made in deliberations for the Boundary Dam relicensing and for the Sullivan Lake Dam license surrender, two projects which have become closely intertwined. Here, also, there is good news. For example, it looks like 211 miles of streams feeding into the Boundary Reservoir will be restored in various ways. Biologically, that will include significant brook trout removal and the return of both west slope cutthroat trout and bull trout (a native trout supplementation program). It will also mean the placement of large, woody, debris in strategic deltas that will provide thermal and predator protection in these cold-water refuge to a variety of fish at various age levels. Stream banks will receive plantings of willows and other native species to help in stream bank retention and to provide shade for stream cooling.

A couple of major actions will take place on Sullivan Creek which is now divided into lower and upper sections by Mill Pond Dam. Mill Pond Dam is slated to come out and the stream allowed to reconnect and find its natural path. The Mill Pond reservoir inundated area will be restored with native vegetation. This will provide access by native salmonids to the headwaters of this major stream for propagation, reclaiming this major stream into one of its historic functions, i.e. a breeding habitat for bull trout in particular. One interesting study will model whether transfers of cold waters from deeper in Sullivan Lake will provide effective temperature cooling to Sullivan Creek. In addition, there will be efforts made to reduce turbine mortality to native fish, a project to provide upstream fish passage beyond the dam and into the Pend Oreille River; an Aquatic Invasive Species management plan; etc., etc., etc.

Seattle City Light will be providing major funding to provide enhancements and protections to the natural
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Jerry Boggs

Hydropower Biologist

Liz Sedler

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Mikki Ravenscroft
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Highway Program

Mark Sprengel
Executive Director

A Message From the Director

What goes around, comes around

I first joined the staff of SCA in April of 1999 as Forest Programs Director after volunteering for several years. In 2003 I became executive director serving in that position for over five years before resigning in April of 2008. In August of this year, I was asked if I would be interested in reassuming the duties of executive director and, after due consideration, accepted.

I'm not only pleased to be back but pleased as well to report that SCA has one of the most experienced and talented group of employees of any environmental group in the region. With the recent addition of Tim Layser, who previously worked for the US Forest Service for 30 years...20 on the Priest Lake Ranger District as a wildlife biologist, SCA now has two wildlife biologist on staff that have amassed decades of experience between them. (Jerry Boggs, our hydropower biologist, worked for the Navy and the Bureau of Land Management before retiring and joining SCA.) In addition to our two staff biologists, Liz Sedler brings years of experience to our forest programs position, and Office Manager Mikki Ravenscroft does a stellar job keeping things running smoothly on a day-to-day basis. Thanks to their efforts and those of our board of directors, volunteers, and you, our members, SCA has put together an ambitious agenda that will, I'm confident, yield big dividends over the coming year. Just a few examples...

- We will of course be continuing our Aerial Monitoring Program which is in its seventh year. Aerial monitoring data, for example, has proved instrumental in protecting additional habitat for endangered mountain caribou from the onslaught of motorized thrillcraft. Tim Layser, who conducted aerial surveys for many years with the Forest Service and other agencies, will head up our program this year.
- As mentioned earlier, Dr. Jerry Boggs will direct SCA's Hydropower Program which, thanks to his hard work, is already helping to ensure improved habitat for native fish in the Pend Oreille ecosystem including areas impacted by Albeni Dam, Boundary Dam as well as the proposed Millpond Dam removal project at Sullivan Lake.
- Recently, SCA initiated contact with the Wildlands Network and with their help, a meeting of environmental groups from the US and Canada took place in Sandpoint on October 7th with the objective of gaining enhanced protection for the Selkirk Mountains and the several species of imperiled wildlife that inhabit this remarkably unique region. An emphasis on restoration of habitat damaged by unwise logging and development projects will be a major component of our collective work. As a result of this meeting, a cooperative network of organizations has now been established that have agreed to work together to protect and restore this area we all care so much about.
- SCA is also continuing work on our Geographic Information Systems (GIS) project for Idaho state lands east of Priest Lake. Information from this project will be instrumental in gaining protection for crucial wildlife habitat on state lands. Representing the first stage of our project, we've just completed a grizzly bear security analysis that will not only provide extremely valuable information for grizzly habitat on the state forest but will also generate important information influencing land management decisions on surrounding federal lands.
- We are continuing our Priest Lake Water Quality Monitoring Project thanks to the coordinating efforts of volunteers Julie Goltz and Kent Larson. Surveys for invasive

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

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ED's message continued —

species such as Eurasian Milfoil and gathering baseline data on water quality are critical if we are to protect Priest Lake's fabled pure water.

SCA will, of course, continue to monitor Forest Service timber projects such as the Lakeview-Reeder HFRA Project west of Priest Lake. This timber sale has the likelihood of detrimentally impacting grizzly bears and we are watching it closely. We are also concerned about a proposed development at the north end of Priest Lake.

Of course all this work costs money. I realize money is tight for a lot of folks right now... especially at this time of year, but if possible, would you please consider supporting our work by making a tax deductible donation to SCA?

Thank you,

Mark

JERRY BOGGS RESIGNS AS SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *by Joanne Hirabayashi, SCA Board Chair*

Early last summer Dr. Jerry Boggs, resigned as SCA's Executive Director. He served more than a year and brought new ideas and his special academic experience and energy to the organization. Among his great strengths were his energy and ideas about how to reach out to inform people about SCA.

Jerry worked hard and brought his skills and experience in wildlife biology and working with the community to helping SCA attain our vision for sustaining wildlife in this interior northwest region. We thank him greatly for his efforts. Among Jerry's special concerns are protection of grizzly bears and wolves through public education programs. As just one example, he helped set up a well-attended informative video program presented in Sandpoint about predators: Lords of Nature.

SCA thanks Jerry for his efforts on our behalf. We are fortunate that Jerry has agreed to continue to represent SCA in the ongoing discussions about dams, streams and fisheries in Pend Oreille County Washington and Bonner and Boundary Counties, Idaho.

Hydropower (continued from cover)

resources of the watershed and for mitigations to offset impacts from its operations over the next 30-50 years. SCA has been in the trenches on this project for almost 2 years, adding the voice of our organization in concert with a variety of agencies, usually in a supportive manner, occasionally in opposition to proposals that did not seem in the best interests of natural resources but, I hope, always productively. This effort will continue. Be looking for updates.

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.

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

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

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

MUGS \$15 each + \$5 shipping/handling

☐ SCA mug

Name(s) _____

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

phone: _____

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

phone: _____

Email address: _____

Mail to: SELKIRK CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
PO BOX 1809 PRIEST RIVER, IDAHO 83856

The Use of Remote Cameras in Wildlife Management by Tim Layser

The use of remotely triggered cameras in wildlife management spans several decades. Some of the earliest wildlife detection cameras were relatively large, heavy and cumbersome to setup. Early systems also utilized a 35mm film format, which required the development of film that could be costly and could result in a waiting period of several weeks before the potential success of the detection system, and the survey location could be evaluated. Remote camera technology has greatly improved since that time and has undergone numerous changes to where it is today. Today's remotely triggered cameras have faster trigger speeds, longer battery life and a large photograph storage capacity.



Figure 1 Photo of grizzly bear taken at monitoring location within Selkirk Mountains in 2009, courtesy of Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Photo taken in digital format.

Remotely triggered cameras have a variety of practical applications from monitoring recreational use on trails, monitoring unauthorized vehicle use on closed roads, assisting in law enforcement, and wildlife species detection. For the monitoring of wildlife, remote cameras have been used for a variety of species but locally they have been used largely for the detection of rare species such as grizzly bear, wolves, Canada lynx, fisher and wolverine, although many other species are usually detected during these efforts.



Figure 3. Photo of grizzly bear sow and cubs taken while monitoring use of closed road in 2006. Photo taken in 35mm format. Photo courtesy of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, taken by U.S. Forest Service.

Today's remote cameras are a relatively new technology and are increasingly used by wildlife researchers worldwide to detect carnivores and other wildlife species. Such cameras function by an animal disrupting a motion and heat-sensitive sensor, thereby photographing the animal at a specific location. The use of remote cameras is less invasive, less time consuming, and less costly than other types of long-term observations of animals, and remote cameras are especially useful to record species that are secretive and that occur in landscapes that are difficult to access by humans.



Figure 2. Photo taken of wolf at monitoring station within Selkirk Mountains in 2009. Photo courtesy of Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Photo taken in digital format.

For grizzly bears, remotely triggered cameras may also prove hopeful in providing information to monitor aspects grizzly bear recovery such as the presence and distribution of female grizzlies with cubs, and the distribution of bears within areas of seasonal use. The presence of female grizzlies with cubs within the bear management units has been established as one of the criteria which is used to check progress towards meeting overall recovery goals. This method is used to supplement information gained from radio telemetry research and reliable observation information when available.

Monitoring stations utilizing remote cameras may sometimes utilize a scent attractant to lure the target species into the cameras viewing area. The attractant that is utilized depends on the species “targeted” and is always deployed so that no food reward is offered to the animal. A common attractant is composed of a blood/fish mixture, which emits a strong odor and is poured onto the ground or logs within the cameras view. The attractant mixture is developed to replicate the odors commonly associated with a decomposign animal carcass. This tends to attract the animal to the site for a short time period while they investigate the source of the odor and determine no food items are available.

Today’s remote cameras may be deployed for several days and up to several months at a particular monitoring station. The timing and duration of the monitoring stations may depend on several factors such as season, survey design and , of course, budget and time constraints.



Figure 4. Photo of wolverine taken visiting a fisher hair snare sampling station north of Priest Lake. Photo taken in 35mm format. Photo, courtesy of Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Upper Priest Lake Revisited

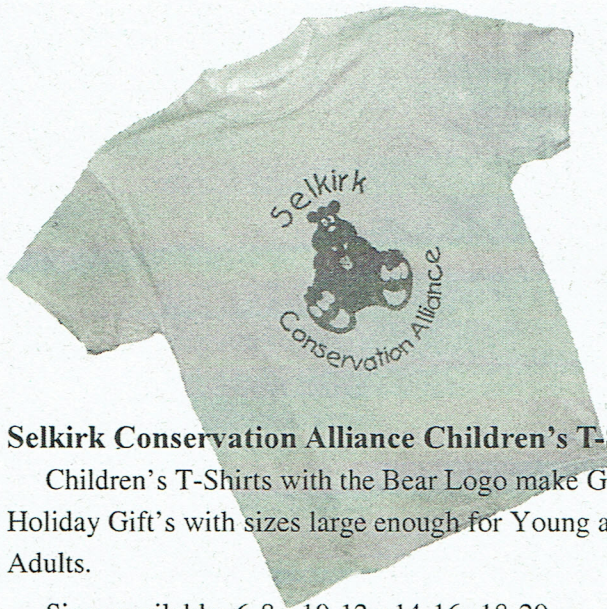
by Robert Harwood

Because of concern over the high traffic level developing in the Thorofare (passage between Priest and Upper Priest Lake), SCA set up to monitor one way passage through that channel. A census was obtained on the last weekend in July and the first weekend in August 2009. Counts were made from 8am to 8pm. Actual transit was probably slightly higher, as people often pass through earlier and well after dark. The accompanying graph shows the highest of the four days of counting: Saturday, August one. On that day, ninety five propeller craft transited (of which ten were large twin pontoon craft or party boats). There were thirty-five propeller craft (canoes, kayaks, row boats) and nine personal water craft (jet skis and wave runners). That was a total of one hundred and thirty-nine water craft. The number of people on board totaled four hundred and eighty-four. Doubling these numbers to account for passage up to the smaller lake and back yields an incredible total of nearly three hundred water craft and close to a thousand people in passage!

When regulations were established in 1965, there were are fewer people and such craft as party boats and jet skis didn’t exist. As our region’s waters become more crowded, spots of tranquility will be ever more sought out. It is surely critical that the regulations and control of passage through the Thorofare be reviewed and updated, with participation vy the public and by appropriate state and county agencies.

The objective is not to restrict access, but to make this rare and beautiful environment more enjoyable for all.

(see graph on back page)



Selkirk Conservation Alliance Children's T-Shirts

Children's T-Shirts with the Bear Logo make Great Holiday Gift's with sizes large enough for Young at Heart Adults.

Sizes available: 6-8 • 10-12 • 14-16 • 18-20

Cost: \$12.50

Wildlife Biologist Tim Layser Joins SCA Staff

SCA welcomes Tim Layser to our Staff. Tim worked for the US Forest Service for over 30 years and, as many of you know, has been the Priest Lake Ranger District wildlife biologist for the past 20 years. Prior to coming to Priest Lake, Tim worked on the Gifford Pinchot and Mt. Hood National Forest and is the discoverer of "Layser Cave," the oldest known upland aboriginal site in western Washington and Oregon. Radiocarbon dated to near 8,000 years old, he worked with the district archeologist in site evaluation and data recovery.

Tim was past chairman of the International Mountain Caribou Technical Committee for two terms (1990-1996), participated in the caribou augmentation program from 1996 to 1998 and served as the scientific advisor to the caribou recovery team from 1996 to 2002. He was also a caribou recovery team member until 2009.

Tim also served as a member of the Selkirk grizzly bear workgroup prior to the formation of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Selkirk-Cabinet Yaak subcommittee and has participated in the IGBC subcommittee since its beginning.

Recently retired from the Forest Service, Tim now brings his extensive experience and skills to SCA.



SCA's Endangered Species Mugs

SCA is continuing our endangered species series with our new Mountain Caribou 14oz. mug. The caribou pen & ink graphic was donated by Deborah Stafford. We will be offering them for \$15.00 each if you pick them up at the office (call first). Due to the high cost of shipping please add an additional \$5.00 if mailing is necessary.

Aerial Monitoring

Selkirk Conservation Alliance will be continuing its aerial monitoring program this winter. This program was initiated approximately seven years ago and has been conducted each winter to monitor and document snowmobile use within caribou habitat in the Selkirk Mountains. Special emphasis of the monitoring program is to monitor and document snowmobile use within caribou habitat that has been designated as being closed to snowmobile use by federal court order. SCA plans to conduct approximately 6 monitoring flights this coming winter season between January and April. Information gathered by the monitoring flights will be shared with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service to identify areas where snowmobile use is occurring within closed areas and where additional enforcement or restrictions are potentially needed.

Win a Salmon River Raft Trip!

Our SCA sponsored Salmon River Raft Trip Raffle for 2010 includes 1/2 day raft trip, overnight hotel stay with breakfast and lunch provided.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00. Call our office at 448-1110, or send information by mail to PO Box 1809 Priest River, ID. 83856. Please let us know the number of tickets you want and include a check or money order to cover. Or, go to our website scawild.org and scroll down to make a donation then under description list Salmon River Raffle and number of tickets then tab over to list total amount. Also e-mail Mikki at ravenscroft@scawild.org with your name, phone number, address and number of tickets and how you want to pay. If by credit card, please include type, number, expiration date and three digit security code number on back. Drawing will be held end of February, 2010.

Grizzly Bear Habitat Analysis on Idaho Department of Lands

The analysis of grizzly bear habitat conditions on lands managed by Idaho Department of Lands is nearly completion. This analysis was initiated several years ago by the Selkirk Conservation Alliance with the assistance of the Biology Department of Gonzaga University in Spokane. The biology department at Gonzaga is using the latest digital mapping computer software (geographical information system or GIS) to evaluate the grizzly bear recovery area on lands managed by Idaho Department of Lands. The analysis will look at habitat conditions on state lands and compare those conditions to the best available science regarding grizzly bear habitat requirements. The evaluation of habitat conditions for grizzly bears will be the similar to that conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service when evaluating habitat conditions on adjacent national forest system lands that are managed for grizzly bear recovery. This evaluation will also identify possible management options to improve habitat conditions for grizzly bears on state lands.

continued from front page,
area businesses and SCA members were auctioned off by "auctioneer extraordinaire" Mark Kabush. Bidders scored some terrific bargains and treasures, thanks largely to SCA volunteer Barbara Williams who worked tirelessly to make this year's auction a success.

Last but not least, we're happy to announce that board member Steve Wilson was re-elected unanimously by our members. Congrats Steve!

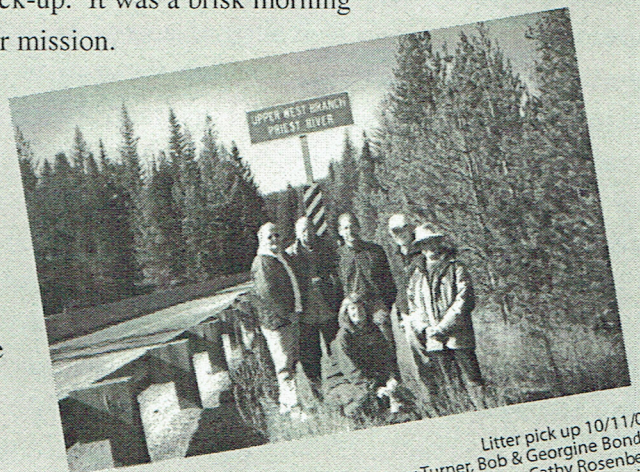
On October 11th we completed our biannual roadside litter pick-up. It was a brisk morning that started around 13 degrees but warmed up sufficiently for our mission.

SCA has been cleaning up the same section of Hwy 57 since 1990. We average about 9 bags of trash each time we meet. That adds up to a lot of litter over the years. We can count on more litter for our next outing in the spring. Guess we could add litter to the old saying about the things we can count on - death, taxes and litter!

Our normal dates to meet are the first Sunday of May and the first Sunday of October.

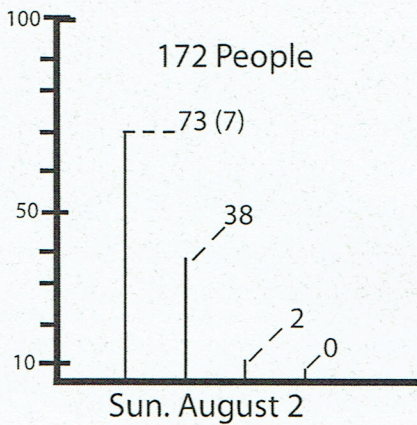
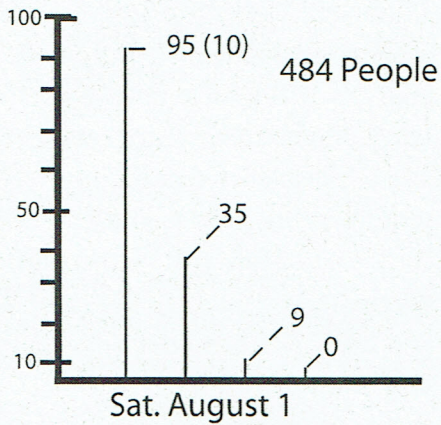
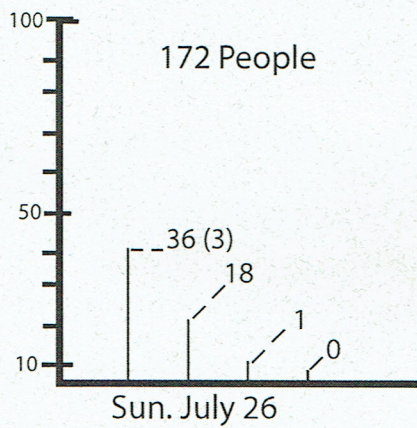
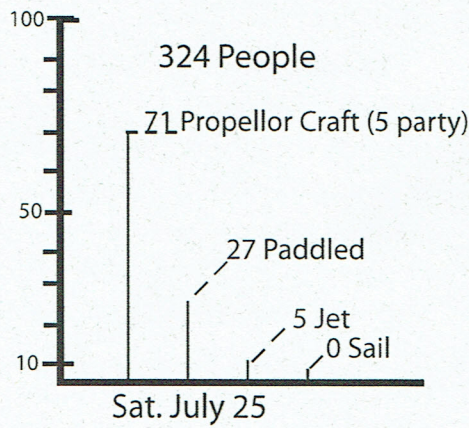
Thank you to all who have helped out.

Amy Daniels/SCA litter pickup coordinator



Litter pick up 10/11/09
L to R: Maggie Drummond, Lon Southard, Terry Turner, Bob & Georgine Bond & Kneeling: Cathy Rosenberg
Photographer: Amy Daniels
9 bags of trash-pretty typical
13° morning - not so typical!!

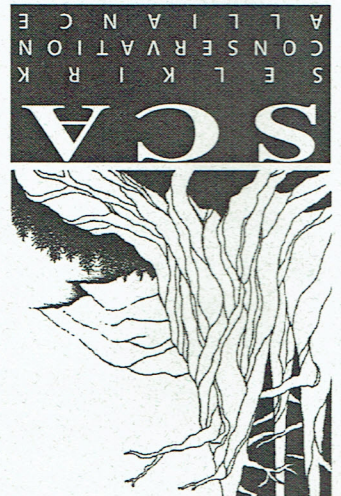
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