



SIGHTLINES

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Summer 2010

Newsletter of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance

FEATURES

- 2 FROM THE DIRECTOR
- 4 GRIZZLY STATE LANDS;
GO-AHEAD ON TIMBER SALE
- 5 SELKIRK WILDLIFE;
FEATURE: FAVORITE PLACES
- 6 AERIAL MONITORING
- 7 CELEBASIN CELEBRATION;
'NO WAKE' UPDATE
- 8 BEAR AWARENESS TIPS

YOU ARE INVITED
CELEBASIN:
SCA ANNUAL CELEBRATION
AUGUST 14, 2010

SEE PAGE 7

FEATURED PHOTO



LUPINE ON NORTH BALDY
SHEDROOF DIVIDE (PHOTO BY TIM LAYSER)

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Sightlines is the newsletter of the
Selkirk Conservation Alliance
(SCA), a non-profit corporation
providing environmental
oversight and public information
for the Inland Northwest.

Priest Lake Water Quality Monitoring

BY MARK SPRENGEL, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

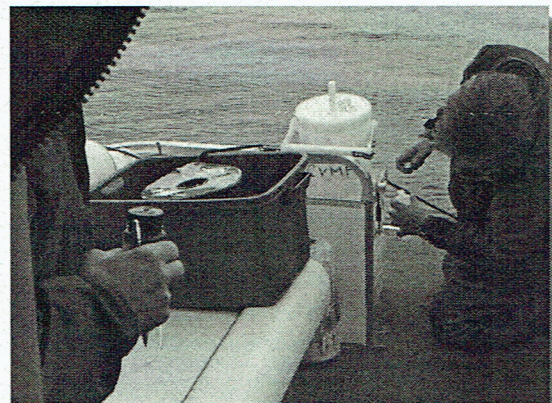
North Idaho is renowned for its beautiful lakes. Priest Lake is certainly one of the most compelling due, in part, to its gorgeous scenery and fabled water purity. SCA has been at the forefront of the organizations and agencies that take an active interest in protecting this valuable and well-loved natural resource.

In the spring of 2008, SCA, with help from volunteers Kent Larson and Julie Goltz, began participating in the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) 'Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Program (CVMP). This year, in conjunction with DEQ, Selkirk Conservation Alliance is once again providing staff and volunteers (as well as some rather expensive equipment) to collect water samples at several locations on Priest Lake.

I nformation is gathered once a month from the same locations and includes data on water clarity, temperature, chlorophyll a, dissolved oxygen, percent DO saturation, total phosphorus, and phytoplankton. After collecting water samples in adherence to a strict protocol, SCA delivers the sample bottles to a laboratory in Coeur d'Alene for further testing. Lab fees are paid for on a cost-share basis

between SCA, DEQ and the Pend Oreille Basin Commission.

If Priest Lake is to retain its fabled water purity, it is imperative that baseline and



Collecting a monthly lake water sample.

Photo: Bruce Yocum

up-to-date information be available to chart and compare incremental changes in water quality over time. This information helps scientists and managing agencies identify detrimental impacts in their early stages and take ameliorative action before small problems become large intractable problems.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I live on a mountain surrounded by what timber corporations euphemistically call a "working forest." That's a nice sounding way of saying it's been hammered. Sliced to ribbons by logging roads and skid trails, under assault by ever-increasing numbers of "off road" vehicles, and poisoned with aerial bombardments of herbicides. There are few remaining places that have escaped the ravages of "active management."

I've hiked all over this mountain in the 31 years I've lived here and I know where these remaining places are. I know where the handful of old growth trees are, for instance. I've measured some of the largest such as a Douglas fir—13 feet in circumference—and the Western larch that is over 12 feet. Unfortunately, almost all of these old trees happen to be on parcels of land owned by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). A few years ago they were on the old Kaniksu National Forest but a land exchange with the state doomed them. If they were still on national forest land they would be safe from the saws. Now on state land, they are slated for liquidation. The vicissitudes of land management.

Recently I was hiking in the last remaining stand of old growth larch for perhaps hundreds of square miles. Certainly the only old growth larch left on this mountain. And there it was, what I'd been fearing for the past several years... the ubiquitous line of florescent pink plastic ribbons marking the boundaries of a new timber sale. I contacted the Sandpoint IDL office for information. A subsequent email message informed me that except for "maybe" a few "wildlife trees" the stand of old larch was going to be logged off. Trees *hundreds of years old* to be sacrificed to make 2x4s and toilet paper.

Forest ecologists will tell you that old growth western larch is probably the rarest and most ecologically valuable of all trees in this region. Larch, for example, typically decays from the inside out creating a hard outside shell with softer material inside. This makes the tree particularly important to species like pileated woodpeckers and the many other birds and animals that subsequently inhabit the cavities excavated by such "primary" excavators. Not only does the hard outer shell provide extra protection from predators but

dead larch snags do not decay rapidly and may stand for decades. When they finally do fall, they become a long-lasting component of the forest floor, adding important structure for a host of wildlife species while slowly releasing nutrients back into the soil for hundreds of years.

Given the massive clear cutting operations and the acknowledged liquidation of old growth trees by the Idaho Department of Lands, it seems obvious that species that require large old trees for their survival (like pileated woodpeckers) will be completely extirpated from state lands. IDL, operating on an archaic land management ethic dating from 1890, consistently refuses to incorporate 21st century science into its management paradigm. Arguing that the state constitution mandates managing state lands with the number one priority of "maximizing economic returns," IDL refuses to acknowledge that eliminating entire suites of wildlife species and their habitat, truncating successional processes, and ignoring modern soil science proscriptions is hardly consistent with long term sustainable forest management.

The ecologist Aldo Leopold once stated that *"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."* This is the hope.

There is another place on this mountain that few people know about because there is no road to it. From my map it appears very close to—but just over the boundary from—state land. A small relict stand of old ponderosa pine tower over a carpet of shrubs and grasses and frame a small lake and valley in the distance. Creamy ocean spray and flowering syringa are scattered among waning purple lupine and waxing brown-eyed Susans. A sylvan vignette that represents something once common and now exceedingly rare.

I hike here often and occasionally see elk, deer, moose and sometimes black bear. For me, this place is a portal to the past. My hope is that it could also be a window on the future.

Mark Sprengel, Executive Director, SCA
sprengel@scawild.org

"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope." ~ Wendell Berry

Join Us! **Saturday, August 14—1 pm**
Celebasin: SCA's Annual Meeting & Celebration & Lively Auction. See page 7

WATER MONITORING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Without hard data, managers are forced to rely on anecdotal information which is notoriously unreliable and of limited utility even in the best instances. Maintaining Priest Lake's water quality is, of course, crucial to protecting the health and viability of the entire ecosystem. It is also crucial to protecting and enhancing the local economy and upholding property values.

SCA's water quality monitoring program is one of our more expensive programs and, given the current recession and associated funding challenges, is a significant drain on our budget. If SCA members wish to see this program continue, we ask that you consider making a special targeted donation to SCA in support of the "Priest Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program."

This year's program is a joint effort involving SCA staff and volunteers. Many thanks to previous and current SCA volunteers Kent Larson, Julie Goltz, Bruce Yocum, Jodi Rice, Craig, Cheri and Siri Moss, Earle Ruddach, Bruce Kennedy and Ramsey Larson.

From the Board

Regretfully SCA accepted the resignation of **Steve Wilson**, an active and valued member of the board for many years. His particular passion focused on the preservation of habitat and open space for wildlife in the face of continuing pressure from development interests and land speculators. He did much to represent SCA at these and other kinds of public meetings and was a great and supportive board member over his years with our organization. Steve, we will miss you.

Selkirk Conservation Alliance • www.scawild.org

Join the SCA

Support the Selkirk Conservation Alliance with Your Membership!

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 or Renew Me as a member of the SCA.
Enclosed are my dues.

	Individual	Family
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
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To help more, I'm enclosing an additional contribution:

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

Include the following SCA merchandise:

☐ SCA mug #_____ \$15 each + \$5 shipping/handling

☐ SCA t-shirt #_____ \$12.50 each + \$3 S&H / Size _____

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To pay by credit card, please include type, number, expiration date and three digit security code on back.
Call the SCA Office with any questions. 208-448-1110

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PO BOX 1809 PRIEST RIVER, IDAHO 83856

Grizzly Bear Habitat on State Lands

BY TIM LAYSER,
SCA WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

In 2008, the Selkirk Conservation Alliance contracted with the biology department at Gonzaga University for an analysis of grizzly bear habitat conditions on state managed lands within the Selkirk Mountains in northern Idaho. Grizzly bear habitat within the Selkirk Mountains Grizzly Bear recovery area includes ten individual grizzly bear management units, nine of which occur completely on lands managed by either the Idaho Panhandle National Forests or the Colville National Forest. The remaining tenth grizzly bear management unit is located on lands managed entirely by the Idaho Department of Lands.

Habitat conditions for grizzly bear on state lands, up until now, have never been fully evaluated and the conditions made available for review. SCA's analysis indicates that grizzly bear habitat conditions on state lands fall significantly below the minimum levels required by adjacent national forest system lands, and that these low levels of secure habitat are likely having a negative impact on grizzly bears and the overall grizzly bear recovery effort within this ecosystem. It is likely that full recovery of grizzly bears within this ecosystem may not be possible unless habitat conditions for grizzly bears on state lands provide a reasonable level of security for grizzly bears and contributes to the whole recovery effort on adjacent federal lands. The grizzly bear population within the Selkirk Mountains remains relatively low, although some recent information suggests that the overall population numbers may have improved in the last decade.

Now that the analysis of grizzly bear habitat conditions is completed, information from that report will be used to compile a formal assessment of grizzly bear habitat conditions on state lands which will then be submitted for peer review to available state and federal agencies. Once these last two steps are completed, the assessment will be submitted to Idaho Department of Lands. Hopefully this will be the necessary catalyst for the improvement of grizzly bear habitat on state lands.

Contact Tim Laysen at laysen@scawild.org

Timber Sale Gets Go-Ahead

BY LIZ SEDLER, SCA FOREST PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

The Lakeview-Reeder Fuels Reduction project has been given the go-ahead from the Forest Service. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on May 10th. The Lakeview-Reeder timber sale is designated as a Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), which means there is no option for citizens to appeal the decision under regular administrative appeals regulations. Under the HFRA, interested parties who disagree with the decision or who believe that it does not meet the requirements of federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act or the National Forest Management Act, for example, can only file an "Objection" raising those issues.

The Forest Service has decided to proceed with the project in spite of SCA's Objection (submitted July 1, 2009) which included allegations of violations of the ESA and NEPA, specifically in regard to grizzly bear habitat management.

According to the ROD, a total of 3,559 acres of "vegetation", i.e. forest, will be "treated." Of that, 2,319 acres will be logged, which includes 1,029 acres of commercial thinning and 1,163 acres of mostly shelterwood cuts which remove the majority of the trees. The majority of the logging (2,003 acres) will be done by harvester-forwarder about 300 acres will be logged by tractors/skidder.

The fuels reduction portion of the project includes almost 1200 acres of "Ecosystem" burning, with no commercial logging, 266 acres of understory burning and 1,642 acres of excavator piling in the logging units. Biomass removal will occur on 457 acres and 14 acres will be hand-piled for burning.

The project is located on both sides of Highway 57 in the Nordman area; many of the logging units northeast and southwest of the highway about

private property.

One of SCA's major concerns is that logging is planned adjacent to privately-owned Bismark Meadows, known to be used by grizzlies. Bears have been sighted there consistently over the many years of grizzly research in the Selkirks. It is extremely important spring habitat for grizzlies. The disturbance from logging and removal of cover adjacent to the Meadows could reduce bear use of the area and, even worse, increase the risk of mortality for bears in that area.

The logging and fuel reduction units west of Highway 57 lie within the Kalispell-Granite Bear Management Unit (BMU), one of nine BMUs in the Selkirk Grizzly Bear Recovery Area. A portion of the project east of Highway 57 lies within the Lakeview BMU. Neither BMU meets the standards that are currently in place for grizzly bear road density and core habitat.

The Road Management part of the Lakeview-Reeder project, for which a separate ROD was issued in December 2009, will decrease open and total road densities in grizzly bear habitat—a positive step for bears. However, even the Forest Service came to the conclusion—and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred—that the project as a whole will adversely affect grizzly bears.

As usual, the Forest Service assumes that grizzlies can tolerate the disruption and disturbance of logging activities and that forcing them to move away from disturbance will not harm them in the long run. They rely on certain mitigation measures and assume, without any real scientific basis for it, that the impacts from the incursion of heavy equipment and humans into grizzly habitat will be short-term. The science says otherwise. Stay tuned...

Legal Challenges for Selkirk Mountain Wildlife: Wolverine, Fisher, Caribou

BY TIM LAYSER, SCA WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Wolverine: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently conducting a status review of the north American wolverine to determine if the species meets requirements for listing under provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

In 2008, the USFWS completed a status review for this species and determined that listing the wolverine as a threatened or endangered species was not warranted under the Endangered Species Act because it did not meet the criteria based on the test of being a distinct population segment (DPS). This decision was challenged and to settle the lawsuit, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to submit a new finding by December 1, 2010.

Wolverines are the largest member of the weasel family and have been reported to resemble a small bear in appearance. Wolverines spend a large portion of their time within the subalpine and alpine areas where they hunt and scavenge for food. Wolverines are known to occur within the Selkirk Mountains and individuals have made reports as recently as this past winter when wolverine tracks were documented by SCA during our winter aerial monitoring.

Fisher: On April 16, 2010 the USFWS announced that their 90-day finding on the petition to list the fisher as a threatened or endangered species might be warranted. This decision is based partly on the extent of commercial timber harvest and over-utilization of fishers for commercial or recreation purposes (trapping). The USFWS will now conduct a status review, scheduled to be completed in 12 months. This will determine if a fisher is warranted for listing as a threatened or endangered species. Fisher are found within various isolated populations within the

western states including the Selkirk Mountains of northern Idaho and northeastern Washington.

Woodland Caribou: Settling a longstanding legal petition filed by a coalition of conservation organizations in 2002, the current administration has agreed to review whether woodland caribou need additional habitat protections – pledging to have a draft decision ready by November 2011 and a possible final designation of critical habitat complete by 2012. The settlement marks a sharp turn in the management of one of the nation's most endangered species. The coalition of wildlife groups which filed the legal petition includes the Selkirk Conservation Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife, The Lands Council and the Center for Biological Diversity.

The Selkirk herd used to roam as far south as northern Idaho and into northwestern Washington State but recent surveys show that as few as two caribou have ventured south of the Canadian border in recent years. The rest of the herd has been effectively excluded from much of the U.S. portion of its habitat – over half of its entire range – by the combined effects of past logging and heavy, ongoing motorized recreational use. Caribou also face similar threats in Canada.

Mountain caribou in the United States used to occupy much of the northern tier states such as Washington, Idaho, Montana, the Great Lakes States and New England. In Idaho they used to roam as far south as the Samon River, but now are only found within the Selkirk Mountains in the United States and part of Canada.

Tim Layser worked for the U.S. Forest Service for more than 30 years and was the Priest Lake Ranger District wildlife biologist for the past 20 years.

Favorite Places

The staff here at SCA would like to make this a regular feature in *SightLines*. We urge members to write a one- or two-paragraph description of some of their favorite places in the Selkirks, along with a photograph or two.

Email sca@scawild.org with subject line: "Favorite Places"



Within the Selkirks, one of my favorite places is North Baldy. Located along the Shedroof Divide, the dividing ridge that separates the Priest Lake drainage from the Pend Oreille River drainage, it also lies on the border between the Idaho Panhandle National Forests and the Colville National Forest.

North Baldy is a high elevation ridgeline within open rolling subalpine meadows which sport an abundance of wild flowers during the early summer months. It is relatively easy to access to an adjacent road system, although the road condition can be quite challenging in places. The 800-acre rolling meadow has a spectacular view of both Priest Lake to the east and the Pend Oreille River to the west.

The area is very important to the Kalispell Tribe as I can easily understand. The area is not without its problems. Occasional off-road use of the meadow by off-road vehicles (ORVs) has in some areas left severe scars within the meadows. The Colville National Forest is constantly trying to curtail such use. Off-road vehicle use in this area and similar areas can damage vegetation, spread noxious weeds, and cause erosion. It may take several decades for the vegetation to fully recover and the scars on the land to disappear. We can help protect our favorite places here in the Selkirks. ~ Tim Layser

Thank You, 2009 Auction Donors

Thank you to our 2009 auction donors for supporting the SCA and keeping our annual Celebasin fundraiser/celebration an enticing and lively event. Join us in support of the SCA and bid on this year's auction treasures—August 14th, 1 pm. See you there!

Bing Crosby Theatre
Diamonds in the Ruff
Falls Inn Tavern
Foxwood House
Ganesh Himal Trading
Gentle Harvest
Interplayers Ensemble
Gordys Chinese
Into the Garden
Ivano's
Handyman 4 U
Hospitality Associates Inc.
Kate Drum Art
Lake Pend O'reille Cruises
Medicine Circle
Misty Mountain Furniture
My Sister's Cottage
Northwoods Performing Arts/Circle
Moon Theater
Ohme Gardens
One World Architecture
Pat's Pumps
Pend Oreille Players
Priest River Gifts: Mountain Harvest
Foods, The Wine Bar, Java Inn
Ranch Club Golf Course
River's Edge Treasures
South Hill Massage Center
Spokane Indians Baseball Club
Stan Hass at Perfection Auto
The Festival at Sandpoint
The Kitchen Shoppe
The Shanty Boutique
Tipke Manufacturing Co.
Union St. Perk
Vino! A Wine Shop
WestSide Pizza
Wild Idea Bookstore & Gallery
Wintersport Ski Shop
Steve & Wendy Booth
Randy Curless
Amy Daniels
Bob Harwood
Craig Hill
Mark Kabush
Betsy O'Halloran
Karin Overbeck
John Roskelley
Jim Short, Mary Smith, Sharon Sorby,
and Steve Wilson

Aerial Monitoring Results

BY TIM LAYSER, SCA WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

A total of ten aerial flights monitoring caribou habitat were conducted this past winter season. Three of these flights were conducted by the U.S. Forest Service and the other seven by the Selkirk Conservation Alliance.

The three U.S. Forest Service flights failed to document snowmobile use violations within designated closure areas. This is likely a result of snow conditions evident during their flights as well as the timing of their flights in relation to recent snowmobile use. The Selkirk Conservation

Alliance documented 37 instances of snowmobile use violations into areas designated as closed to snowmobile use in order to protect caribou and caribou habitat.

A large percentage of the violations were within the Trapper and Cow Creek areas and specifically along portions of the court-ordered caribou movement corridor, created to provide for the unencumbered movement of caribou within the caribou recovery area. Snowmobile use was also documented into closed areas within the vicinity of the Pack River, Kent Lake, Hidden Lake, West Fork Cabin, Bunchgrass Meadows, Hughes Ridge Continental Mountain, Trapper Peak, Grass Creek, Blue Joe Creek and in the Abandon Creek area on lands man-

aged by the Idaho Department of Lands.

Aside from protecting caribou and caribou habitat, the winter flights documented several other important observations. One of the most significant being that a cow and calf caribou were located in the vicinity of Little Snowy Top Mountain. While



Snowmobile tracks within a closed area.

caribou have wintered in the Little Snowy Top area in previous years, what is important is that the observed animals consisted of a cow and calf. It has been several years since a cow and calf were documented wintering in the U.S. portion of the caribou ecosystem. Tracks of other rare wildlife species such as wolverine, wolf, and grizzly bear were also observed during the monitoring flights.

Tim Laysar, former chairman of the International Mountain Caribou Technical Committee (1990-1996), served as the scientific advisor to the caribou recovery team from 1996 to 2002. laysar@scawild.org

Celebasin: A New Venue *Come Celebrate With Us!*

August 14, 2010, Saturday—1 pm

Granite Creek Marina Lodge, Priest Lake

Celebasin, SCA's yearly meeting and celebration, will be held Saturday, August 14, at the recently completed Granite Creek Marina Lodge on the shores of Priest Lake.

Festivities begin at 1 pm.

This is your chance to bring your environmental concerns and questions to SCA board members and staff, participate in a lively auction, and mingle with like-minded Priest Lake folks over food, drink and chatter.

Launching the celebration, Mark Sprengel, our Executive Director, will bring us up-to-date on SCA's most environmental activities in the area. Next on the agenda, a special program about our "seldom-seen neighbors" with Tim Layser, SCA's resident biologist, giving a short talk on the rare species that live in the Selkirks. He has fantastic photos and wide experience to share; you won't want to miss this.

Then we launch into our much-anticipated annual auction. Get ready for a fun opportunity and a chance to pick up nifty bargains. If you have something you might like to auction off as a donation to SCA, please bring it along or make arrangements with us in advance. We can pick up items if necessary. Contact the SCA office for any questions: 208-448-1110 or sca@scawild.org

The celebration of SCA and its members caps off with food, drink, and socializing. Contributions to the potluck will be gratefully accepted, but please don't feel obliged to bring something. It's strictly voluntary.

Directions to Granite Creek Marina:

Attention, east-siders and boaters. Should you wish to come by boat, the Marina is in a small protected bay just south of Granite Creek. Moorage space should be available. By car, follow State Highway 57 north of Priest River for about 36 miles to Nordman, then bear right onto Reeder Bay Road. Follow that for almost 4 miles. After a big Kaniksu Sands sign on your right, you will see a much smaller Granite Creek Marina sign. Turn right and follow the gravel road for about 3/8th of a mile to the lodge. If you miss the turn and go over the Granite Creek Bridge, you have gone a mite too far.

Our Celebasin turnouts have been smaller in recent years, so feel free to bring friends and guests. This is your opportunity to relax in a beautiful new building on the shores of the Lake, with thanks to the kindness of the Dean Stevens' family. Have a good time and show your interest and support for a truly great environmental organization.

See you August 14th!

Update: Upper Lake No-Wake Proposal

BY ROBERT HARWOOD

There has been a whole-hearted response by email and direct conversations from SCA members in support of SCA's thrust to get Bonner County, Idaho, to modify behaviors of boaters on Upper Priest Lake.

Our desire is to modify county regulations to ensure boaters have continued full access and at the same time restore a sense of tranquility by requiring the Thoroughfare access route and all of Upper Priest Lake to be a year-round no-wake zone. Another objective, based on an existing water skiing ban on Upper Priest Lake, is to forbid jet propelled watercraft (jet skis, wave runners, etc.) and rapid towing of wake boards and similar pulled objects in these zones. Clearly, the availability of Priest Lake, eighteen miles in length, allows plenty of aquatic recreation in the general region.

SCA board members have presented our positions during three recent meetings of the Bonner County Waterways Advisory Board (BCWAB). We have received attentive and largely positive discussion from BCWAB members to our expanded no-wake proposal, and growing support for our views regarding banning jet propelled craft and fast wake boarding, etc. We point out that banning jet propelled craft is urgent because of the propensity of these propulsion methods to suck up and widely scatter invasive aquatic organisms. Eurasian aquatic water milfoil infests the main Priest Lake, currently with fairly limited distribution.

We continue our efforts to achieve a more sensible level of tranquility and environmental protection to Upper Priest Lake and welcome comments from all who appreciate the scenic designation of this unique body of water and its surrounding lands.

As an entomologist, Bob Harwood's interests are scientific but his passion is fishing. He is former professor and chair of the Entomology Department at WSU. His early school years were spent at Woodstock School in India. plfishrub@q.com

Raffle Trip Winner

Our Salmon River Raft Trip Raffle was a great success. Many thanks to all those who purchased tickets. We are happy to announce that **Lon Southard** won the trip which includes a half day raft trip with "Salmon River Challenge" out of Riggins, Idaho, as well as an overnight hotel stay with breakfast and lunch provided. We hope you have a wonderful experience, Lon! Thank you to all for your support of SCA.

Being Bear Aware

BY TIM LAYSER, SCA WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Now that another year is upon us it is a fitting time for a reminder on some tips for those living and enjoying outdoor recreation within bear habitat. The Selkirk Mountains are home to one of the highest density of black bear populations within the state of Idaho as well as home to a relatively small population of grizzly bears. Both species of bear will live most of their lives in seclusion. Only rarely will a person encounter one. Bears will go about their business of feeding on natural foods such as early spring vegetation, or, later in the year, a variety of wild berries which at various times abound within the ecosystem.

Almost all of a bear's time is spent in search of food—an activity necessary for them to survive and endure a winter hibernation where they have to subsist on stored fat reserves for several months. Because of a bear's constant quest for food, circumstances sometime bring bears into contact with humans, at people's homes or campsites. Although rare, it does occur—with some years having higher incidences than others.

Some tips to assist you in reducing the possibility of a bear visiting your home:

- Do not leave human foods outside where bears can find it.
- Store garbage indoors or in bear-resistant garbage cans.
- Make sure that bird feeders, birdseed, suet, and hummingbird mixes are not accessible to bears. Consider feeding birds only in winter months, when they need it most and when bears are in their winter den.
- Pick fruit from trees on your property regularly. Clean up rotting fruit on the ground around trees.
- Make livestock feed and pet food inaccessible to bears, especially at night.
- Avoid the use of outdoor refrigerators.
- Store odorous food scraps such as fish and meat bones in the freezer until garbage day.
- Haul garbage to a sanitary disposal

site as frequently as possible to avoid odors.

- If you have a pick-up service, put garbage out shortly before the truck arrives, not the night before.
- Keep barbecue grills clean and free from grease. Store them inside, if possible.
- Enclose compost bins with chain link or electric fencing (at least 6000 volts).
- Don't put fish, meat, or fruit into your compost. Use lime in your compost to reduce odors.
- Keep pets inside at night, if possible.
- Remember: If bears have gotten



into your garbage or livestock feed, remove the attractant immediately.

- Repeated use of a site by bears is much harder to stop than a single instance.

When camping within bear habitat, either at a developed campsite or remote wilderness site, consider these tips:

- Set up cooking, eating and supply area at least 100 yards from your sleeping area. Store food and odorous items by hanging at least 10 to 15 feet above ground and 4 feet from top and side supports or store in approved, bear resistant containers.
- Select food in individually-sealed packages. Plan meals carefully to

prevent leftovers.

- Store pet food, livestock feed and garbage the same as food. Never bury it; pack it out.
- Strain food particles from dishwater by using a fine mesh screen and store with garbage.
- Dump dishwater at least 100 yards from your sleeping area. Food odors may attract bears and other animals.
- Keep sleeping bags and tents completely free of food, food odors and beverages.
- Store personal items (such as deodorants, toothpaste, soap and lotions) with food and garbage when

not in use. Any odorous product may attract bears.

- Camp in open areas away from trails, thick brush, berry patches, spawning streams or carcasses. Sleep in a tent increased safety.
- Keep a flashlight and bear

Tips on how to NOT invite a bear to dinner.

spray readily available.

- Wash your hands after cooking, eating or handling fish or game.
- Minimize odors.
- Do not sleep in the clothes you cook in.

If a bear does get human foods and/or garbage it likely becomes what is classified as a nuisance bear. Sometimes nuisance bears are captured and relocated away from problem areas. If the bear continues to be a problem, state wildlife agencies may determine it necessary to destroy the bear for public safety. *Remember: "A fed bear is a dead bear."* For more information on bear safety, visit our website www.scawild.org