



SIGHTLINES

www.scawild.org

Spring 2016

Newsletter of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance

FEATURES

4 - BEAR BOXES SUPPORT SPECIES RECOVERY FROM THE BOARD

5 - A-Z TIMBER UPDATE TRAIL CAMERAS

6 - CARIBOU MURAL SCA UPDATES

7 - OUR LAST CARIBOU: RECOVERY PLAN CHANGES HANDS

8 - MEMBERS HOST EVENTS TO SUPPORT SCA

Tower Fire of 2015: Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)

BY KAREN SOENKE, SCA MEMBER SUPPORTER

The Tower Fire started August 11, 2015, just north of South Baldy Mountain in the Newport Ranger District of the Colville National Forest. Due to limited firefighting resources in the region, sustained hot dry and windy weather conditions, and extremely dry fuels—the Tower Fire escaped initial attack actions and was still burning as of the end of October.

The fire grew to approximately 24,700 acres in the Colville National Forest (Newport and Sullivan Lake Ranger Districts), the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (Priest Lake Ranger District), Washington state and private lands. Approximate impacted acreage for the Colville National Forest: 5,475 acres; Priest Lake Ranger District: 12,130 acres; Washington State Department of Natural Resources: 2,200 acres; and private land (Stimson Lumber Company): 4,900 acres.

Three important burn recovery processes are initiated, developed and implemented after a large fire affects the landscape. Each process requires different and sometimes similar treatments, and each requires very different



2015 Tower Fire at Mill Creek Drainage.
Photo credit: Stimson Lumber Company

funding sources to implement and pay for the required repair and stabilization actions:

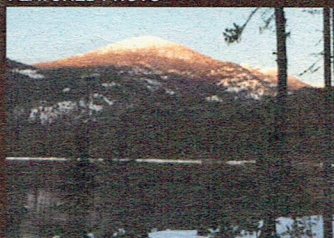
- 1. Immediate Fire Suppression Repair.** Dozer lines, fire lines, fire camps, water sources. Roads opened to fight fire, etc. Funding comes from Direct Fire Funds.
- 2. Short Term Emergency.** A plan is developed, approved, implemented and funded through the Federal BAER program (BAER – Burned Area Emergency Response). Only federal lands can benefit

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

JOIN US! LOON SURVEY DAY JULY 16, 2016

SEE DETAILS, PAGE 8

FEATURED PHOTO



LOOKOUT MTN (PHOTO: ELEANOR JONES)

www.scawild.org
phone: 208-448-1110
sca@scawild.org

Selkirk Conservation Alliance
P.O. Box 1809
Priest River, ID 83856

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

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PRIEST RIVER, ID
PERMIT NO. 27

Board of Directors

Steve Booth
Chair

John Abelson

Randy Curless

Mark Kabush

Sharon Sorby

Bruce Yocum

SCA Staff

Tim Layser
*Executive Director
/ Wildlife Biologist*

Linda Check
Office Manager

Sarah Stoner, Layout
Swordfern Wordsmithing, Ink.
sarahjstoner@hotmail.com

Petroglyph Printing
509-447-2590

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

TOWER FIRE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from this program.

3. **Long Term.** Recovery, restoration, and rehabilitation. Funding comes from annual appropriated federal funds, grant sources, or other available funds.

In this case, for the Tower Fire, the Forest Service System Lands were on Newport and Sullivan Ranger Districts and the Priest Lake Ranger District. The BAER program is geared to address situations on federal lands.

A 13-member BAER team was requested and assembled due to effects of the size, severity and complexity of the Tower Fire. Team members represented hydrology, botany, range/invasive species, roads, cultural resources, GIS (Geographic Information Systems), recreation, wildlife, soil science, fisheries and a tribal liaison. The team analyzed and assessed emergency stabilization needs centered on

damage to life, property and natural resources which were highly likely *not* to recover on their own or through natural processes over time.

The BAER team looked at critical values and determined the risk for each of their respective resources or improvements on the landscape in the burned area. They developed treatment prescriptions and strategies to address the emergency conditions. The burn severity was identified within the Tower Fire perimeter. They estimated 9% was high severity, 34% was moderate severity, 40% was low severity and approximately 17 % was unburned inside the perimeter. The majority of the high severity was in the Mill Creek, Solo and Browns Lake watershed areas.

The critical values of human life, safety and property and the risks due to potential flooding, debris flows, rock fall, avalanche danger

and falling trees/snags were identified on Forest Service System roads, trails and high-use recreation areas. The critical values of natural resources are soil productivity, hydrologic function, and native vegetation recovery. Critical or suitable habitat for threatened and endangered species was identified. The critical values with unacceptable risks signify necessary action.

Critical values were assigned a level of risk using a risk assessment matrix. The critical values having a very high or high risk rating include recommended emergency stabilization

actions known to mitigate potential threats or minimize expected damage. Intermediate risk areas were identified and the treatment strategies for those areas are to coordinate with local, state and other federal co-operators. Critical warning signs were recommended to be placed in some areas with an intermediate risk. No treatments were identified for low or very low risk rating in the analysis.

Examples of treatment recommendations for the

YOU can help track and report Selkirk area fire recovery efforts.

Help monitor the success of fire recovery treatments, including drainage on roads and trails traveled.

If you see problems or want to report conditions, let your local Forest Service office know. Call or email them with a photo of what the problem is, where it is located, and maybe even an idea of who or what is necessary to fix the problem. Consider what would be the damage if nothing was done to fix to the problem.

Priest Lake Ranger District:
(208) 443-2512

Or: Monitor a certain area over time with photos to show how the area is recovering or not. There are many ways to get involved in the recovery of the Selkirk area.

very high to high risks for all critical values/resources in the Tower Fire area:

- Temporary road closures for Roads 312, 659, 120000, 192000 and 508000; installing warning signage and monitoring that treatment is functioning as intended.
- Temporary closures, installing warning signage, and storm patrol for flooding, debris flow and other erosional hazards.
- Hazard tree removal as needed, monitored by cooperators and Forest Service employees.
- Area closures and installation of closure and warning signage at major points of entry due to fire-weakened trees and the potential for avalanches at all dispersed recreation sites as monitored by cooperators and Forest Service employees.
- Area closures and installation of closure and warning signage on groomed snow-

mobile trails—38 miles on the Colville National Forest and 17.9 miles on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

- Removal of a burned trail foot bridge on Icy Springs Trail.
- Removal of hazardous trees at some Priest Lake Ranger District trailheads.
- Improved road drainage features, temporary closures, warning signage installations and storm patrol on select Forest Service system roads.
- Trail crossing armoring and monitoring on trails #197, #164, #104 and #103.
- Seeding treatments to prevent non-native invasive plant establishment in select areas.
- Planting of Whitebark Pine seedlings and seeding effort to replace the loss of Whitebark Pine in the North Baldy area.

Development and implementation of treatment projects will be finalized after the BAER assessment plan is approved, cost estimates are developed and work activities are scheduled. Expect to see treatment projects having occurred this past fall/winter and spring 2016 within the Tower Fire area. Forest Service roadside hazard tree salvage sales will likely occur soon. Forest Service Timber Salvage Sales will probably be proposed in the near future. Fire salvage sales will likely occur on state and private timber lands as soon as possible, to maintain the value of the wood for lumber. Stimson Lumber Company will evaluate using aerial and ground surveys and prioritize their losses based on timber types, costs of logging and lower value of logs. They intend to reforest all fire impacted acreage, regardless of whether they use salvage operations or not. Coordination on road use and other resource issues will need to occur with all cooperating agencies.

The overwhelming majority of the Tower Fire area will recover naturally and is likely to be improved due to the fire. Vegetation will come back providing browse for animal species. Overcrowded stands of trees were naturally thinned to provide more light and nutrients for remaining trees. Bird and animal species dependent on fire-killed trees will have more habitat to occupy. The Tower Fire will end up a good thing in the long run for the forest.

Karen Soenke is an SCA member and volunteer. She recently retired with 20+ years with the Colville National Forest. Karen's participation with SCA's Remote Camera project and Water Quality Monitoring has been essential in carrying out these projects to a high quality standard. See page 8 for more information.

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
Limited Income (living lightly)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20



SCA bull trout t-shirt

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 bear t-shirt (kids) #_____ \$12.50 each +\$3 S&H / Size _____
☐ SCA bull trout t-shirt #_____ \$12.50 each +\$3 S&H / Size _____

Name _____

Email _____

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

phone: _____

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

phone: _____



SCA mug and kids t-shirt

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

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

SCA Bear Boxes Support Species Recovery

Over the last several years, the Selkirk Conservation Alliance has worked to develop a program that strives to reduce the probability of grizzly bear mortality within the Selkirk Mountains Grizzly Bear Recovery Area. Grizzly bear mortality has been identified as a one of the significant factors hindering recovery of this species.

SCA's approach for reducing grizzly bear mortality is through the education of the public and decreasing grizzly bear attractants at public facilities through site sanitation. SCA has partnered with several groups including the Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative, Equinox Foundation, Kalispel Tribe and Boy Scouts of America to achieve these goals.

SCA has in the past helped purchase and install bear resistant food storage lockers within the Lionhead Campground, Indian Creek Campground and Dickensheet Campground.

This past year, SCA partnered with the Colville National Forest, Kalispel Tribe, Seattle City Light and Pend Oreille County Public Utility District to purchase and install bear-resistant food storage lockers within the campgrounds surrounding Sullivan Lake. A portion of these food lockers have been installed by the Forest Service; SCA plans to facilitate remaining locker installations through assistance from the Boy Scouts.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

From the Board Chair

BY STEVE BOOTH

Many of you are probably aware that the Caribou Recovery Program has shifted from domain of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Kootenai Tribe of Indians. We hope this will be beneficial to the caribou. I'm sure Tim will tell you a little more about this (see *Caribou article*, page 7).

As you might already know, the SCA has been heavily involved in the Priest Lake outlet dam issue. Water released to the river was nearly shut off last summer to benefit recreation on the lake at the detriment of the river. SCA felt there should be some sharing of the water between lake and river but a state statute dealing with only Priest Lake does not allow for such flexibility. The only way to change the management of this water is to amend the statute; a difficult process. SCA will see if it can accomplish something towards that this winter.

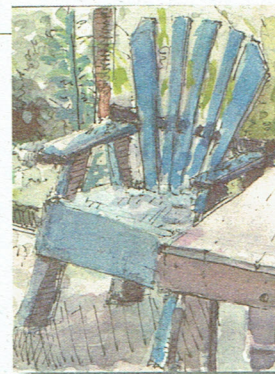
The Stakeholders Group that helps determine how fisheries are managed at Priest Lake, of which I am a member,

had a couple of interesting bits of information presented at its last meeting:

- According to some fishermen, there is a notable shift from lake trout to kokanee angler efforts on the lake.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has classified lake trout as a threat to bull trout recovery. Bull trout are a threatened and endangered species.

That is some of the work SCA is doing. If you have stories or information you would like to share, we would like to include them in future Sightlines. We would love to hear from you.

Steve Booth has been on SCA's board since 2002. He is a former teacher, coach, historian, and forest service firefighter. Steve is a long time resident of Priest Lake and has owned his small construction business for 28 years.



BEAR AWARE REMINDERS:

Many unnecessary conflicts with bears take place around our residences and campsites. Improperly stored food and garbage is often the key. You can minimize odors and the availability of food rewards throughout your yard, home, and community:

- Put out garbage on the day of pick-up, not the night before. Store in sturdy building or place in a bear-

resistant trash receptacle.

- Do not leave pet food out. Hang bird feeders out of reach of bears.
- Keep barbecues clean and grease free. Store with livestock/pet feed inside a sturdy building.
- Pick all ripe fruit from the tree and surrounding ground as soon as possible.
- Vegetable gardens and compost piles may attract bears. Do not put meat, fish or other pungent scraps in compost pile. Add lime to reduce odors and accelerate decomposition.
- An electric fence is an effective way to keep bears out of orchards, gardens, compost piles, and beehives. Follow appropriate safety precautions.

Photo to left: Boy Scout from Spokane install bear-resistant food storage lockers at Indian Creek State Park.

“A to Z” Timber Sale: Update

BY TIM LAYSER, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Colville National Forest supervisor Rodney Smolden withdrew his draft decision for the North Fork Mill Creek A to Z Project Environmental Assessment.

In September 2015, the Alliance for the Wild Rockies (AWR), the Sierra Club, Friends of the Clearwater, Native Forest Council, and one individual announced that they filed a formal objection to a massive timber sale located in the Colville National Forest northeast of Spokane, WA. Conservationists underscored that the proposed North Fork Mill Creek A to Z timber sale would perpetuate unsustainable logging practices that for decades would cause damage, and that the proposal to log national forests was being financed by Vaagen Brothers Logging company.

A group of proponents for this proposed timber sale included Vaagen Brothers, the Forest Service, Congresswoman Cathy McMorris-Rogers, The Lands Council, and Conservation Northwest. They supported the A to Z timber sale approach which would have turned over design, layout, implementation and environmental analysis to the Vaagen Brothers and their subcontractors.

The Environmental Assessment proposed two alternatives which ranged from harvesting 2,503 to 4,587 acres, where the harvesting would be “desig-

nated by prescription”—which means that the timber industry would interpret the proposed logging type and choose themselves which trees that would be harvested.

Conservationists note that despite the collaborative process which was used to plan this proposed timber sale, the outcome is an unsustainable forestry that repeats the mistakes of the past. Instead of allowing harvested forests to recover—so the lynx, fishers, wolverines, grizzly bears and bull trout formerly living there can re-inhabit the watershed—project proponents want to log off many of the remaining trees from up to 4,587 acres.

It was also noted that the Environmental Assessment for this proposed timber sale is out of compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Colville National Forest Plan, and other federal laws, regulations, and policies developed to ensure proper stewardship of our national forests, a legacy that belongs to all of us.

Contact SCA Executive Director Tim Layser at layser@scawild.org.



wolves, coyote, turkey, red squirrels and woodpecker were recorded in their native habitat thanks to the remote cameras.

Stay tuned to SCA's Facebook page for updates on what wildlife is wandering the Selkirks.

A bull elk feeding photographed by an SCA remote camera, 2015.

Trail Cameras, 2015

BY KAREN SOENKE



A black bear photographed by an SCA remote camera, 2015.

The SCA set up trail cameras in seven areas in 2015. There are two cameras of the seven areas that will stay out for the 2015/2016 winter. They will be retrieved in the late spring when snow melts. Stay tuned to the SCA Facebook page for what they might reveal when the photo content is gathered and reviewed.

A total of 13,889 pictures were taken on the cameras. The cameras are set up to take a burst of three pictures when any movement is recorded. Many pictures were captured of wind moving grass and brush, heavy rain, snow and dropping leaves and needles. Each of the 13,889 pictures were reviewed for animals. A total of 1,427 pictures were of animals. Often, the same animal was in the burst of three pictures.

Hunters, dogs, hikers, bike riders, berry pickers, firefighters, engines, logging equipment, trucks and other vehicles were also captured on the cameras. The Selkirks have many unique and special animals. Pictures of these animals were forwarded on to state and federal biologists who help manage these species.

Many of the photos of the animals taken from the trail cameras are posted to SCA's Facebook page. Elk, moose, deer, grizzly and black bear, cougar,

SCA Updates

SCA BUYS A BOAT

With the generous donation from one of our members, SCA was able to purchase their very own boat to use for its programs. The boat will be used primarily for our water quality monitoring program but will also be useful for other SCA programs including educational outings and wildlife surveys.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

This past year, SCA was able to complete another year of water quality monitoring on Priest Lake. Water quality monitoring was conducted from May through October 2015. Although the data has not been fully analyzed as yet, indications for the year show an earlier warming of the surface layer of the lake and a deeper thermocline (sharp area of temperature transition layer) than in previous years.

REPORT WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

A gentle reminder to all our members that if you are fortunate enough to have an observation of one of the Selkirk area's rare wildlife species, please take the time to report it to the proper authorities.

This information is valuable for a variety of reasons. If you are unsure of who to contact, feel free to report the observation to the SCA office by phone or email who will pass the information on to the proper agencies.



Wildlife species of special interest include: **caribou, grizzly bear, lynx, bobcat, fisher, pine marten, common loon, golden or bald eagles, and harlequin duck (picture above).** Report your sighting information to one of the following:

SCA 208-448-1110

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
509-892-1001

Idaho Department of Fish and Game
208-769-1414

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
509-893-8014

Caribou Mural in Sandpoint, ID Inspires Awareness through Art



Center for Biological Diversity and Selkirk Conservation Alliance unveil the Caribou Mural in Sandpoint, ID, part of a nationwide project supporting awareness of endangered species.

Just as nature inspires art, art inspires actions to defend wild places and the wild creates that live in them. This past spring, SCA teamed up with the Center for Biological Diversity and had Portland-area artist Roger Peet paint a caribou mural on the side of the Snow River Building in downtown Sandpoint, Idaho—near the Selkirk Mountains where the last remaining caribou in the contiguous U.S. are still found.

This mural is part of the Center for Biological Diversity's Endangered Species Mural Project which teams up with local artists to bring endangered wildlife onto the streets of towns and cities throughout our nation using art as the communication medium. The unveiling ceremony included remarks from Noah Greenwald, the Center's endangered species director, and Roger Peet, the Justseeds Collective artist who designed and oversaw the painting.

"The endangered mountain caribou is found nowhere else in the United States besides the Selkirk Mountains of Idaho's Panhandle and should be not just saved, but celebrated," said Noah Greenwald, endangered species director at the Center. "We're so glad the city of Sandpoint has recognized it has something special in the

"The endangered mountain caribou is found nowhere else in the United States besides the Selkirk Mountains of Idaho's Panhandle and should be not just saved, but celebrated."

mountain caribou and is supporting these animals' recovery."

Caribou once ranged across much of the northern lower 48 states, including the northern Rocky Mountains, upper Midwest and Northeast, but today are down to only the southern Selkirk herd, which straddle the border with Canada. The herd is part of a unique form of woodland caribou, known as mountain caribou, that are adapted to survive winters with deep snow, relying on dinner-plate-sized hooves that work like snowshoes and an ability to subsist for three to four months at a time on nothing but arboreal lichens on old-growth trees.

Artist Roger Peet mainly explores ecological themes, with an emphasis on predator-prey relationships, and the contemporary crisis of biodiversity. Peet has collaborated with activists, artists and scientists across the globe to produce art projects in the service of conservation and the preservation of communities and lands. The city of Sandpoint unanimously approved the mural project and passed a resolution supporting recovery of the caribou and augmentation of the southern Selkirk herd—exactly the kind of local support for endangered species the project is designed to foster.

Our Last Caribou: Recovery Plan Changes Hands from USFWS to Kootenai Tribe

BY TIM LAYSER, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Caribou numbers within the South Selkirk Mountain ecosystem continue to decline. The most recent census, conducted in the winter of 2015, shows only 14 caribou remain—down from 17 animals the previous year. As recently as 2007 the number of caribou was between 45 and 50 animals. At this rate, Selkirk caribou could be gone from our mountain within the decade.

Historically, caribou in the western United States ranged from the Okanogan Valley of central Washington state to what is now Glacier National Park in Montana and south to the Salmon River and maybe even farther south. The caribou population in our Selkirk Mountains historically numbered several hundred animals, which is based on various historical accounts. Poaching, highway fatalities north of the border and loss of habitat all have contributed to the eventual decline in caribou numbers. Selkirk caribou population began to plummet in numbers around the 1960s.

More recently predation has sent the remnants of this population declining even further to the low point where it is today. This predation is an artifact of the changes in habitat over the past 50 years that have drawn deer, elk and moose into the high country that was once almost exclusively as caribou habitat. Unfortunately as deer, elk and moose numbers flourished so did the predators that preyed on them such as mountain lions and more recently wolves.

In response to the issue of predation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game has recently liberalized the hunting season for mountain lions in northern Idaho in an attempt to reduce predation on caribou. In addition, British Columbia has taken on a highly controversial task of reducing their wolf population in an attempt to alleviate the occasional predation on caribou. All this is being done in an attempt to reduce caribou mortality, to allow caribou number to

stabilize and to possibly create a small or modest increase in numbers. A similar program was undertaken between 1999 and 2003 which had significant positive affect on caribou numbers. Caribou mortality was almost eliminated and caribou numbers began to increase by two to four animals each year. For some reason the program was dropped afterward positive effects were recorded and caribou numbers again began to fall to where they are today.

It is unfortunate that such actions are necessary, but they only serve as short-term solutions until such time as the habitat recovers from the extensive timber harvesting within caribou habitat that occurred 30 to 50 years ago. This timber harvesting made current conditions favorable for deer, elk and moose and allowed these populations to increase significantly. Their increased numbers resulted in an abundance of prey opportunities for mountain lions and wolves and thus their population also grew in tandem. Mountain lion and wolf both prey on caribou during their normal hunting exploits.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) plans to release their final decision this coming spring on a status review for the Selkirk Caribou. In their draft decision, USFWS proposed to down-list caribou from their current status of 'endangered' to 'threatened.' In SCA's comments on this draft proposal, we indicated that the information used in their draft proposal was faulty, contradictory and could not be supported by the current science on caribou.

The USFWS will reopen the comment period on the designation of critical habitat for caribou. This is scheduled to happen

in spring of 2016. The USFWS had previously proposed to reduce the amount of designated critical habitat from 375,562 acres to just 30,010 acres. SCA joined other conservation groups in challenging the USFWS in the courts on its decision to reduce designation of critical habitat for caribou—and won. An adequate expanse of critical must be designated for the caribou to allow for a hopeful expansion of numbers.

This past summer, the Kootenai Tribe from Bonners Ferry, Idaho took on the task of updating the existing Caribou Recovery Plan for the USFWS. The Caribou Recovery Plan was last updated in 1994 and a revision has been long overdue. Once the Caribou Recovery Plan is revised, it will be reviewed by the Caribou Recovery Team, approved by the USFWS and hopefully put into place. The Caribou Recovery Plan outlines the problems, timeline and tasks necessary to achieve recovery of the species. Hopefully this task will be completed quickly and put into place before it is too late for our caribou.

SCA Executive Director 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. layser@scawild.org.



Bull in velvet.

DIY Member Support for Selkirk Conservation Alliance

BY LYDIA HUNGATE, SCA MEMBER SUPPORTER

During last year's annual SCA meeting also known as Celebasin, Steve Booth spoke about the Selkirk Conservation Alliance's need for new members. As long time members, this sounded like something my husband John and I could help with. With an idea in mind to host a casual informational event about SCA at our Priest Lake cabin, I enlisted the help of our neighbors Eleanor Jones and Anne Ashburn who are also SCA members.

Little did we know that the summer day we chose turned out to have high winds predicted, and a dust storm so bad that midday loomed like dusk and the sheriff mistakenly issued a Class 2 fire evacuation. When the actual time arrived the weather was calm and all those who attended our everyone-welcome event were cozy indoors for the meeting.

To publicize the meeting, we visited neighbors, posted flyers, and invited nearby family and friends. Our guests arrived by boat, car, and we even welcomed a guest who walked over from the State Park. Despite the weather, sixteen people at-



SCA members Lydia and John Hungate among guests at an informational meeting hosted at their Priest Lake home. They wanted to help boost awareness and membership for SCA and its work in our beloved Selkirks.

tended this event and many more heard about SCA from the flyers that distributed around the area.

MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT THE SELKIRK ALLIANCE

If you are inclined to want to become involved in SCA activities or programs, we do have a deal for you. If you are interesting in helping with any of these efforts, please contact our office at 208-448-1110 or check@scawild.org.

Loon Survey Day. With an adequate number of SCA volunteers, these surveys take place the third Saturday in July. This date is widely used across the western United States as the annual Loon Survey Day. SCA conducts surveys on Priest Lake, Upper Priest Lake and other lakes within our ecosystem if possible. Volunteers can survey by boat, shoreline observation, kayak or canoe. This year, mark your calendar for July 16. Give us a call to sign up!

Remote Cameras. SCA seeks volunteers to work with the remote or trail camera program for monitoring and photographing wildlife. You would be instructed on how to set up and run one of SCA's remote cameras. Volunteers who would like to work with a remote camera for upcoming field season are ideal. It can be helpful to work in a group of at least two individuals for this project.

Litter Pick up. SCA organizes a litter pick-up along a portion of Highway 57 each year and relies heavily on volunteers to get this done. This program is led by Bruce and Rosemary Yocum.

Celebasin Planning. SCA's annual getting together is usually held in August and the location is set by our board. Help is always needed to make this event happen.

To begin the event, we offered light refreshments while people chatted and looked over various Selkirk Alliance brochures and newsletters. After a while, we pulled our chairs into a circle to form one group. We explained in our own words the goals and mission of the Selkirk Alliance, then fielded questions. Our guests came with varying degrees of interest and support, but everyone was attentive and friendly. We were asked some good questions.

This was also an opportunity for people to share their personal experiences with wildlife and conservation at Priest Lake and we learned some interesting history, especially from the old-timers. We ended our group time by going around the circle to ask what we valued about the resources of our region, and what hopes and dreams each person had for preserving the Selkirks.

Before everyone left, we handed out the membership information and invited our guests to consider joining the Selkirk Alliance. We know of at least a handful who followed through by enrolling as members. It was a friendly and positive gathering. The SCA office was most helpful in supplying informational material.

We enjoyed the experience and I would encourage all of you to also consider hosting an informational meeting in your neighborhood.

SCA member-supporter Lydia Hungate spends spring, summer, and early fall at Priest Lake with her husband each year. jellhungate2@gmail.com. Please contact the SCA office for support, materials or to schedule speakers for an informational meeting you might like to host in your neighborhood. Many thanks to Lydia and her family for their volunteer support and inspiration!