



SIGHTLINES

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Fall 2016

Newsletter of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance

FEATURES

- 3** -HAVE YOU LIKED US?
-FAREWELL TO TIM
- 4** -NEW BOARD MEMBERS
-JOIN THE SCA BOARD!
- 5** -SCA MEMBERSHIP &
DONATION UPDATES
- 6** -MEMBER REMEMBERS:
RUST CAMP, 1953
- 8** -INVASIVE SPECIES:
YELLOW IRIS
- 10** -JASPER MTN SALE:
ILLEGAL LOGGING?
- 13** -WETLAND IN PERIL?
STAY TUNED...
- 17** -SCA UPDATES,
UPGRADES
- 19** -2016 WATER
QUALITY STUDIES
- 20** -THOROFARE &
WATER LEVEL
STUDIES

SCA Year-End Match Campaign

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The SCA is pleased to announce that longtime supporter and board member John Ableson has agreed to match the Selkirk Conservation Alliance year-end fund raising campaign, up to \$20,000.

Yes, you read that correctly, \$20,000!

Considering SCA's total income for 2016 has been less than \$19,000 to date—we desperately need our supporters to step up to the plate and make a year-end donation. While John's donation is designated to support our much needed geographical information system (GIS) upgrade, your matching dollars also helps fund other ongoing projects like our Priest Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program, timber sale monitoring, fighting a potential multi-

unit development at the south end of Priest Lake, or endangered species recovery programs. Your gift helps insure we remain viable advocates for conservation in the Selkirks.

**Double Your Donation
to SCA by Donating
before January 31, 2017**

Your donation to the SCA
during the year-end
fund raising campaign
will be matched by
SCA board member
John Ableson,
up to \$20,000!

**DOUBLE DOWN
and GIVE TODAY!**

scawild.org/donation

**Card, check, Paypal,
or visit SCA website
to make a donation**

To make a donation please visit scawild.org, mail a check to the address listed below, left, or call the office during normal business hours (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-4PM PST). Office manager Linda Check can process your credit card or Paypal donation over the phone. You will promptly receive a tax deductible receipt for your donation.

*Show your support today
and your generous donation
will be matched!*

www.scawild.org
phone: 208-448-1110
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Coming Home to the Magic That is Priest Lake

Friends who have known me for several decades know that my life tends to be filled with more zigs and zags than most. The last three years have been no exception.

In 2014, I made the decision to scale back my environmental consulting business in Alaska, buy a rugged off-road expedition RV, load up my dog, and do some off-the-grid traveling. I put a large deposit on the RV (getting an April 2015 delivery date), scheduled two long overdue knee replacement surgeries, then started scanning all my photo albums/recipe files and liquidating personal possessions.

In the fall of 2014, just as my first knee surgery was scheduled, the RV company announced they would not be able to deliver the RV when promised (or commit to any other date). My elderly father then needed immediate surgery—which resulted in my postponing a knee so I could help out in Spokane. A month later, after seeing auction ads for Priest Lake properties on TV while he recuperated, I got to thinking—could I live there?

So, I returned to Sedona, got the first knee surgery done, and prepped my Arizona house to sell while evaluating numerous Priest Lake property listings. I returned to Spokane for Christmas, moved my parents out of their townhome into assisted living at Riverview, and took a day to meet with Priest Lake childhood neighbor and SCA Board Member Bruce Yocum, looking at several properties around the lake. It was then that I first learned of the SCA, and joined as soon as I returned home to Sedona.

Like many current SCA members, I was lucky to have had ten magical childhood summers on Priest Lake, as my family had two federal lease cabins on Neopit Road near the outlet. Hiking, campfires, huckleberry picking, watching bears at the dump, water skiing, finding kindling for the wood stove, building sandcastles on Bartoo Island, cinnamon rolls at the Drift Inn on the way to the Upper Lake for a picnic—these are the memories that I always reverted back to during hard times... my happy place.

So, when my father announced (after the fact) that he had sold our cabin to buy a condo at a golf and tennis resort, I didn't speak to him for a year. Trips to Priest Lake became fewer and fewer as I took summer and after-school/weekend jobs, worked at Camp Sweyolaken on Lake Coeur d'Alene, and eventually took internships in Alaska. For several years my only connection to Priest Lake was Kris Runberg Smith (author of *Wild Place*), whom I met working at Sweyolaken. We spent many a work day looking out over that lake saying this is so great—but wouldn't it be even better at Priest? As my career gained wings in Alaska, I eventually lost track of Kris and was left only with my fading memories of happy days at Priest. But I digress...

It took a lot of property evaluations, rejected offers, and negotiations over the next five months to finally find a property that I felt would work for myself, my dog, and my rapidly ailing father. Desperate to get north so my ailing family would have some support, I sent Bruce out to inspect a property without me, and eventually made an offer sight unseen. While that may seem crazy to many people, my 30 years as a biologist/wetland scientist in Alaska have resulted in having above average aerial photography interpretation skills and resource data alternatives analysis. Further, my time at the Harvard Business School taught me much about the art/science of negotiation. Finally, recovering from my two knee replacements I also watched a LOT of inspirational HGTV home renovation shows... and was pretty sure with Yocum Construction, good loggers, and many trips to the dump—the place I now call home had the potential to be something special.

Like me, it's still a work in progress...but those of you who joined us at Celebasin in August would likely agree there are few places with a more inspirational view of the Selkirk Crest on the lake. As I type this, I am gazing out at a freshly snow-capped Lions Head with the lake rippling softly below, while East Twin Island enjoys the last rays of sunshine before a rain storm moves in... simply magic.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

SightLines • Fall 2016

Have You Liked Us Yet?

Like

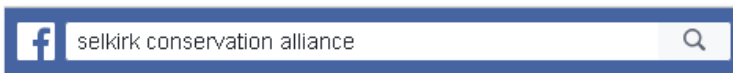
BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Social Media, love it or hate it, is here to stay. Because it is now a fundamental part of how organizations are evaluated by potential members, donors, and Foundation grant managers – it's critical that the SCA have a vibrant and active social media

com. Facebook allows any individual, organization, or verified business to have one free account. This is called your "Page." Once the page for a person or organization is established, other Facebook users can "Friend" (individuals) or "Like" (businesses or organizations) their pages. When you add new content to any page (personal or business) that content is shared with other users who have "Friended" you or "Liked" your page. The number of friends you have or businesses you like will play a large role in how often you see posts from any one page.

For example, I have just under 200 personal "friends" on Facebook. Some of them are very active (10 or more posts/day) and some rarely check Facebook or post at all. So, how do I make sure that I don't miss posts that might be important (someone had a baby, got into grad school, etc.), but minimize the number of posts I get that are just plain annoying (political banter, ads for things I don't need, etc.)? First off, if there are friends that you barely know that are prolific posters, change their "Friend" status to "Acquaintance" using the drop down arrow to the right of the Friends bar on their page. Next, if that still doesn't slow the post flow to a manageable level, "Unfollow" them by using the dropdown menu to the right of the "Following" Bar. They will not know you did this, whereas they may figure out you "Unfriended" them if they track that sort of thing closely.

To "Like" the Selkirk Conservation Alliance, simply type the organization name in the search bar at the upper left corner of the page you are on:



This will take you to our page. Here you can determine if you have already "Liked" us or not. If you haven't – please do (and make sure your spouses, children and grandchildren do too!) This is very helpful to us as many organizations that are considering

Farewell to Tim

BY STEVE BOOTH,
SCA BOARD CHAIRMAN

With a heart-felt thank you from the SCA board and staff, it is time for us to bid a fond farewell to our former Executive Director, Tim Layser.

Tim has been with SCA for seven years, the past three as Executive Director. With his infinite capacity to effectively network, calm yet passionate demeanor, understanding of government project process that has aided him to provide strategic and helpful comments, and infinite knowledge of our varied wildlife, he has steered SCA to a position of respect and standing with Tribes, agencies and other conservation groups.

During Tim's tenure with SCA, he led us to build up and maintain our robust Priest Lake water quality monitoring program, garnering respect and trust from Idaho DEQ; worked with Tribes, university, state and federal agency researchers to develop and carry-out remote surveillance programs to gather data and monitor sensitive wildlife populations, including mountain caribou, grizzly bear and wolverine, as well as document motorized vehicle access within areas closed to that activity; worked with our local dams on research and implementation of fish and wildlife habitat enhancement projects; and implemented a bear sanitization project that helps protect and keep grizzly bears safe.

Tim will be enjoying his full retirement, spending more time with his family and traveling. We hope we can entice him to stay involved in the recently re-invigorated mountain caribou recovery project.

*Be well, do good work,
and keep in touch.*

~Garrison Keillor



following. To do that we need your help (and your kids, your grandkids, your friends, and their friends too..).

To keep it simple, the SCA is currently limiting its social media campaigns and very limited advertising dollars to our Facebook page; but as our average membership age lowers, we'll branch out to other platforms currently more in favor by the millennials and other younger generations. In the interim, here's

how you can help us by 1) using your existing Facebook account, or 2) establishing a new Facebook account (they are free!) even if you only open it once just to help out the SCA!

Facebook 101: Facebook is accessible off any web browser at www.facebook.com.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



What does it take to be an SCA Board Member?

SCA acquisition of GoToMeeting Software in early 2017 enables members who do not live in the region year round to now join the board, so long as they are computer savvy and have reliable access to email. Board members are expected to attend four board meetings per year as well as to attend the annual membership meeting.

Board members also periodically contribute articles to our newsletter, attend public meetings of interest around the region, help out with fundraising and membership drives, and when possible, represent the organization on various committees or contribute specific expertise (business, legal, accounting, environmental, human resources, public relations, and IT skills are all useful as we chart a path to move the organization forward). In between meetings, board members receive updates via email/phone and are asked to vote on various issues facing the organization.

Finally, the most important criteria for new board members is a passion for this region and a desire to help to conserve and protect its natural resources. Interested? If so, please send a brief biography and Statement of Interest to us via email at sca@scawild.org. We can fill as many as three more seats before January 2017, and will likely have additional vacancies in 2018.

SCA Welcomes Three New Members to Board of Directors

In January 2017, three new board members start three-year terms with the SCA: long-term member Eleanor Hungate-Jones, and new members Elizabeth “Betty” Gardner, and Dr. James Lea. These members join our existing five active members, one member recently being excused due to health issues. A brief biography of each new member follows.

Eleanor Hungate-Jones



The first of Eleanor’s relatives arrived in the Priest Lake region around 1898, to do botanical studies of the area. Since that time her extended

family has spent their summers and some winter weeks at Priest Lake. Eleanor is passionate about bringing her many skills to the SCA, and particularly in representing those who live on the lake’s east side and who live near the thorofare.

Eleanor, who lives in Seattle when not at Priest Lake, is a retired international teacher and school administrator. She was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Liberia, West Africa. She also volunteers her time in Seattle with the Ronald McDonald House and the Sweet Pea Cottage of the Arts.

Elizabeth “Betty” Gardner



Betty has lived on the lower Priest River since 1978 and recently retired from a career as an educator. Having watched the water quality and habitat in the river deteriorate since 1978, she is ready

to make sure that Priest River and those who live on it are well represented in the SCA.

Betty is no stranger to environmental advocacy. As a teacher at the Idaho Hill elementary school, she began a two and a half year crusade in 2002 to successfully stop the use of a dangerous chemical at a nearby lumber treatment plant which was found to be leaking into the local water table.

Dr. James Lea



Dr. James Lea is a recently retired neurologist who lives in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho—when not enjoying his Kalispell Bay cabin on Priest Lake. James is passionate about

finding solutions for improving water quality in shallower bays like Kalispell, where he has witnessed a steady decline in near-shore water quality.

James is currently working on gaining technical support for the SCA and Priest Lake water quality studies from the new Social Ecological Systems Laboratory at the University of Idaho in Coeur d’Alene.

Look for These Items Next Issue:

- USFS Plans Timber Sale at Hanna Flats
- New CDA Study Documents Real Estate Value Declines Due to Loss of Water Quality
- Priest Lake Water Quality Update
- 2016 Thorofare Remote Camera Results
- And more...

Help the SCA Every Time You Shop with Amazon

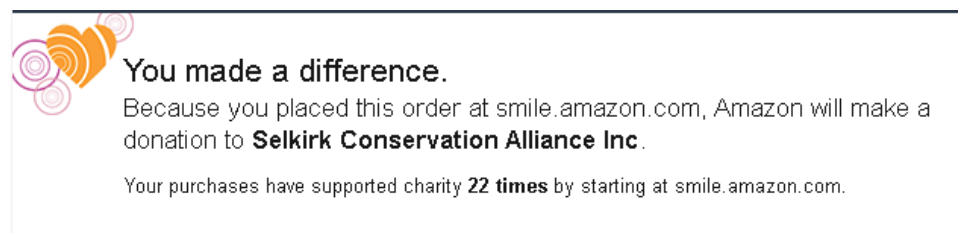
CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As noted throughout this issue of *SightLines*, the SCA needs all of its members to dig deep into their pockets as we come to the end of 2016 if we are to survive and thrive in the months to come. But did you know that if you ever shop on Amazon or Amazon Prime—you can financially contribute to the SCA with every purchase at absolutely no additional cost to you? All you need to do after signing up is make one simple change in your on-line shopping habits—log in via smile.amazon.com rather than amazon.com, the rest is automatic.

To get set up, first, log into your Amazon account using this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-0418651>

Your screen should then look similar to this screenshot, and will also include a login area. After you log in, if you have not previously signed up with a charity, it will confirm that you want the SCA to receive your donations. If you are currently supporting a different charity, it will also guide you through the change process.

Once you set up the SCA as your designated non-profit, as long as you login to shop using smile.amazon.com rather than amazon.com—Amazon will donate 0.5% of every eligible purchase (which is almost everything they sell) to the SCA.



You made a difference.
Because you placed this order at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will make a donation to **Selkirk Conservation Alliance Inc.**
Your purchases have supported charity **22 times** by starting at smile.amazon.com.

So, for example, if all SCA members as of this issue spent \$100 at Amazon Smile next year, it could result in an ~\$100 donation to the SCA by Amazon. Living in north Idaho, it's quite common for me to shop via Amazon Prime so I definitely spend more than \$100/year there. As you can see here, I've shopped 22 times since naming the SCA as my charity last July. We'll be reporting our gains via the Amazon Smile program in each issue of *SightLines* moving forward. Let's see how our combined shopping efforts can help fund conservation efforts around the Selkirks.

AMAZON SMILE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCA

2015	\$ 18.08
2016 (Q1 – Q3)	\$ 28.90
2017 Goal	\$ 500.00

SCA Membership Report

COMPILED BY SCA STAFF

Did you know that in late 1990's the SCA had over 650 members? The membership count June 1, 2016 was 124 paid members, and summer activities have us now at just over 160. Conversely, the population of the Idaho Panhandle in the 1990 census was 216,792, while at the 2010 census it was 317,751, ~30% increase. At an average investment of less than \$40/member, we still have a long way to go to be in the black. As such, we challenge each of you to commit to bringing at least one new member to the organization by January 1, 2017; and also please consider membership gifts for your grown children this holiday season. Social media engagement is also an easy and relatively painless way to help spread the word about the SCA (see page 3, this issue).



We hope by next issue to report that we are at least half way to our 1990 membership count – but feel strongly that since there are literally thousands of people out there who profess to love this region... and millions more who visit this area each year a membership base in the thousands really should be a realistic five-year goal. And, if you want your SCA membership dues to stay affordable as they are now, we all need to find and recruit new members!

So, what do we know about our current membership base? Well, currently members of the SCA reside in 18 states. Not surprisingly Washington, Idaho, and California have the most SCA residents (85% of total SCA members reside in these three states), and we are nearly equally represented by men, women, and family memberships.

My Career in a Forest Service Blister Rust Camp, 1953

BY JOHN ABELSON, SCA BOARD MEMBER

In 1950, our family moved to Priest River where my father was second in charge of the construction of Albeni Falls Dam. We came from Umatilla, Oregon (McNary Dam on the Columbia) where I had been active in Boy Scouts and I continued with that in Priest River and in 1953 I earned the eagle scout badge. In the summer of 1953, there was to be a boy scout Jamboree in Irvine, California and my Dad said he would send me to the Jamboree if I could earn part of the money. So that spring I hitchhiked to Sandpoint and submitted my application to the Forest Service for a job in the blister rust control program.

Blister rust is a fungal disease of white pine, the most valuable timber in North Idaho. The disease has an obligatory host, wild gooseberry or current bushes (Latin name *Ribes*). The Forest Service had about ten blister rust control camps in the Priest Lake basin manned mostly by college students from all over the country. The strategy was to systematically pull out or poison all of the gooseberry bushes in the forest. You were supposed to be 18 for this job (I was 14) and so in my application I said that I was 18. I probably didn't look 18 but I had reached my full height and at least looked big enough. I got the job.

In early June, I reported to the Priest Lake Forest Service headquarters on Kalispell Bay. This was a sprawl of buildings going up the hillside where the Priest Lake Marina is now. In my bag I had the required equipment: calk boots from White's in Spokane, black denim pants cut off at the bottom so that you couldn't be caught by the seam in the woods, blue work shirts and a red felt hat. We got our assignments and mine was with a group that would be taken in a large white launch, the "Clear-Joe," up the lake to Navigation Camp Ground on Upper Priest Lake. This was my first view of the entire lake, the Thorofare and the upper lake. The Clear-Joe was piloted by Joe White who was skillful at easing the 6-ton boat over the shallow sandbar at the beginning of the Thorofare (still a problem).



The two main ribes species at Priest Lake. *Ribes viscosissimum* has a pungent cinnamon odor when the leaves are crushed. The stems of *Ribes lacustre* have thorns so camp workers wore gloves.



The "Clear-Joe" piloted by Joe White supplied Camp Navigation, the biggest camp in the Kaniksu Forest supplied by boat. White's twice-weekly junket took him the length of Priest Lake. Much of White's renown came from his skill navigating the Thorofare.

At Navigation, we were assigned to a canvas tent with board floors and an iron stove. It could still be cold at night in June. Two of my roommates were brothers from Texas, one of them a lineman on the Texas A&M team. The other roommate was a scholarly student from North Dakota.

They gave us one day of instruction. You carry a hoe-dag, a combination axe and hoe for removing *Ribes*, and a pair of nylon drag-lines about 200 feet long. The "stringers" had already gone through the forest laying out lanes delineated by string lines about 200 feet apart and separated into lots of about an acre. You cross the lane towing one drag-line, then return with other about 10 to 20 feet away scanning all of the territory between the lines for *Ribes*. You must root out every *Ribe* whether it is six feet tall or two inches. Your lot doesn't pass until "checkers" have gone through searching for missed *Ribes* and can find none. If they find even one, you must go back and do the lot again. In a relatively short time I got a very sharp "*Ribes* eye" and to this day when I walk through the forest they immediately catch my eye. One also got a good feeling for *Ribes* ecology. *Ribes* almost never grow in needle-bottomed forest and you can quickly do those lots. But they flourish in stream beds and swampy areas or near rock slides and there you must be careful and decrease the distance between your two drag lines.

Navigation Camp lies at the bottom of Ploughboy Mountain and our work started that summer at the top. The bosses led us up the trail at break-neck speed and then dropped us off at our lots. You work by yourself and it was tempting after that climb to rest for awhile but the bosses were quietly roaming through the forest and one didn't want to get caught sitting down on the job. We got a five-minute break, morning and

afternoon, and a half hour for lunch. A boss would yell "take five" or "let's eat" and when you heard it you would pass it on. Then finally at 4:30 the cry was "let's go." I quickly got into shape and I was never as fit again. The string-lines were laid out by compass and they went straight up the mountain, over cliffs and rock slides, through dense underbrush and over downed trees so one had to learn to maneuver in the forest. It's a skill that remains useful for huckleberry picking. You also learn how to fall.

We didn't work in the rain and instead did trail duty or cut firewood. There were occasional thunderstorms and then there would be the call of "let's go" and we would walk down the mountain. One time there were lightning strikes all around us as we walked down the trail, but at 14 I felt indestructible.

We worked eight hours a day and a half day on Saturday. The Clear Joe did not take us down the lake for the weekend and most weekends I stayed in camp but you could walk out by going north five miles on a trail along the Upper Priest River to a poor road taking you the 18 miles to Nordman and then 30 miles further to Priest River (unpaved in those days). Some members of the crew had cars parked at the trail-head. To get back before dark you needed to leave Priest River in the early afternoon so it wasn't much of a weekend.

It was coming back to camp one Sunday night that I had my first fight. It was completely my fault. We were walking rapidly along the trail and Remmy (from Utah) was in front of me. I kept stepping on his heels. He said if you do that one more time I'm going to hit you. I did it one more time. We scuffled and fell down the bank towards the river. In the process he got in a very good punch to the face. I was spitting blood for about a week. I had four fights that summer. Three of the four were with Remmy's clannish friends from Utah. Two were scuffles that occurred during work and were inconsequential but the last one was memorable. We were on the side of Ploughboy Mountain (without bosses) taking a break above a rock slide before beginning work. One of the Utah contingent picked a fight with me and we rolled down the rock slide about 30 feet. As we stood up he kicked me in the back with his calked boot. This made me angry and I began to apply some boxing skills that I had learned in Priest River. I got in a good punch to the nose and the fight stopped after that. We climbed back up the rock slide and everyone could see that he was bleeding profusely. From this event I gained some notoriety. One guy in camp was the amateur light heavy weight champion of Oklahoma. Of course I didn't fight him but he seemed to like me and we would spar. He called me "The Tank."

In July, it came time for me to leave and go to the Boy Scout Jamboree. I hadn't told them that I would do this and thought they would probably fire me but they didn't. In fact the boss showed a lot of interest in the Jamboree. I was gone for two weeks. We went to California on a special train that left from Spokane and went through Boise picking up scouts as we went along. In all there were 45,000 scouts all camping out in tents and cooking our own meals. The organizers put on a big show for us. In a natural bowl, celebrities came to enter-

tain: Bob Hope, Mitzi Gaynor, Jimmie Stewart, Roy Rogers, Lash LaRue, etc. Even Richard Nixon, then Vice President, was there. We visited Knotts Berry Farm and swam in the ocean at Huntington Beach. Those two weeks couldn't have been more different from life in the Blister Rust but at the end of the two weeks, I was glad to be going back.

When I returned to Priest River I had one weekend with my family at Priest Lake. We went to visit our friends the Badrauns at their cabin on Kalispel Bay and I got a bad sunburn. When I returned to camp my assigned lot was in the swampy delta of the Upper Priest River and mosquitoes landed on my sunburn. This was terrible but by afternoon I started to sweat and the sunburn stopped hurting.

By this time it was August and the weather was beautiful. I didn't go home on the weekends and on Saturday afternoons and Sunday we would have an idyllic time playing tackle football in the shallow water on the sand bar at the end of Upper Priest Lake. We had also rigged up a backboard for basketball and there were a lot of games. Our camp was lucky to be on the lake and one could always swim.

There were other camps nearby and in particular one up the Trapper Creek Basin. Those guys often came down to the lake on Sundays to swim. On a weekend in the middle of August one of their crew was missing when they returned to their camp. His name was Roger and he was last seen walking west out of Navigation Camp. Just outside the camp there is a three-way junction. A trail goes south along the lake towards the Thorofare. Another trail goes west up and over Ploughboy and a third goes north along the Upper Priest River. A search was mounted and we had to look along all three trails and also to assume he had left the trail. By Wednesday the Forest Service had brought search dogs but it rained early in the week and they couldn't find a scent. Roger's father came out from the Midwest and joined the search. I was with a search team that spent a whole day scrambling up a stream-bed to the west and calling Roger's name. No one found a trace. Finally after a full week of searching the Forest Service called off the search. The Clear Joe took Roger's father back down the lake. As they entered the Thorofare, Roger's father, standing on the rear deck saw something bobbing in the wake. It was his son. Apparently he had walked south along the lake with the idea of going back up the east side to Trapper Creek. He drowned trying to cross the Thorofare. We had thought we were indestructible but we weren't.



**Ready to go in Priest River:
John Abelson, 1953.**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Get to Know an Invasive Species: Yellow Flag Iris

BY SHARON SORSBY, SCA BOARD MEMBER

Although a cheerful splash of bright yellow in early spring along our local shorelines, yellow flag iris infestations are quite harmful to many of the values we hold dear for living on the water.



Iris pseudacorus – yellow flag Iris

Iris infestations reduce waterfowl nesting sites and do not provide materials for building nests. They do not provide cover for hiding from predators and they do not provide structure to support the small invertebrates waterfowl depend upon for raising their chicks. The dense leaves and root system of the iris infestations do not have the structure needed for young fish to forage and hide from predators. Infestations also reduce options for mammals that depend on shoreline habitat, including otters, muskrats, beavers and moose. They also interfere with recreational activities.

Landowners who wish to undertake management actions can contact their local weed control authority to obtain the rules and regulations governing such activities. In Pend Oreille County, it is necessary to have the “Blue Book” – “Aquatic Weeds and Fish” on site as it constitutes your County Shoreline and WDFW HPA permit to perform manual management activities. Books are available from the Weed Board office, 227-B S Garden Ave in New-

port, 509-447-2402 or noxweedinfo@pendoreille.org. The Washington Department of Natural Resources may require an additional permit or at least permission for installing bottom barriers. On the Pend Oreille River, the Army Corp of Engineers may also require further permitting or permission. Bonner County currently handles all Yellow Flag Iris infestations directly, and requests that observations be brought to the attention of their Weeds Program (208.255.5681 x 1171).

There are several management options including hand-pulling small iris plants or digging out large plants – no easy task. If this option is chosen, sediment screens need to be installed to prevent sediment transport into the waterbody as this would affect water quality. It's also important to wear gloves for these activities as the sap of this plant is toxic.

Bottom barriers, or screens, are another management option. These occlude light, preventing photosynthesis, and also suffocate the plants. The leaf material needs to be mowed before installation to minimize off-gassing as the plant material decays, as the gasses form bubbles that can lift or move the barriers, reducing their efficacy. Due to the damage these barriers also cause to the micro habitat they cover, as a management option, it is only appropriate for small scale projects. For those who choose to take a more relaxed approach, in late summer, seed pods will be maturing. Landowners can assist in reducing the spread by removing the seed pods and disposing of them on dry land, away from the water's edge (in burn or compost piles or in the trash).

Some people argue that the dense and tightly interlocked root structure helps armor shorelines against the erosive forces of wave action. This is not true for high energy waves as they have the force to tear through the root mass, ripping it off in large chunks that can float to another location and establish a new pioneer infestation. The best defense for

Thank You for Helping—It Makes A Difference!

One of the most nerve-wracking parts of leading a non-profit organization with a limited budget is having confidence that when you ask for help, folks will actually deliver. I can say with confidence that no one that I've approached for help thus far has flatly turned me down – and in fact most step up and agree to more than I ever hope for or expect.

To that end I'd like to give a special thank you to the following folks who have really stepped up to support the SCA through my first six months:

John and Chris Ableson
Thomas and Nancy Arkins
Doug Baker
Tom Beaty
Georgene and Robert Bond
Steve Booth
Bates Coffeld (Cornerstone Designs)
Gordon “Skip” Chapman
Linda Check
Granite Creek Marina (Melissa and Mike)
Thomas Herron (IDEQ)
Mark Kabush
Sandra and Robert Mansfield
Richard McSwain (Hometown Digitals)
Barry Rosenberg
Kris Runberg-Smith
J. Michael Short, Professional Photographer
Paul Sieracki
Mary Smith
Sharon Sorby
I. Scott Strongin
Bruce and Rosemary Yocum

shoreline protection is our native willows and especially Spirea – not only is it beautiful with its fluffy bright pink flowers, but the branches that reach into the water dissipate waves to small ripples that do not have the power to damage well vegetated banks.

2016 Celebasin

BY CHERYL MOODY AND ROBERT MANSFIELD,
SCA MEMBERS

The SCA Celebasin/Annual Membership Meeting was held August 27, 2016 at the lakeside home of our new executive director Cheryl Moody. For the first time in many years, the event was open to the public, and neighbors in the Mountain View subdivision off Hagman Road were invited to come and learn more about the SCA. As you can see from the picture collage, the event was well attended, with more than 42 people checking in at the sign-in desk but a headcount at one time being over 60 in attendance. At the event, three new families joined and four families renewed their SCA memberships.

Attendees at the event participated in a neighborhood history walk led by SCA's new volunteer Educational Program Coordinator Sandra Mansfield—members on the walk took a detour to see a new home being built near Granite Creek, and ended up recruiting two new members!

Live music was provided by Dr. Scott, a new SCA member and part-time resident in Coolin. Dr. Scott's family also visited and enjoyed his musical musings along with the rest of our guests. Thank you Dr. Scott! Kitchen help, grilling and parking management were deftly handled by Cheryl's sister and brother-in-law, Nancy and Tom Arkins of Bellevue, Washington. Food was fabulous and some of the appetizers brought by the guests are worthy of note... especially the homemade salsas!

Two boat trips allowed attendees to learn about ongoing SCA projects around the Priest Lake region and learn more about our participation in the Citizens Voluntary Monitoring Program (CVMP) which is partially funded by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ). Thomas Herron of IDEQ was our guest speaker at the annual meeting, and he provided a thorough update on our sampling efforts to date, as well as providing an updated summary report of the data. This report has been scanned and is available in the members only library

section of our recently updated website. The on-going support of the IDEQ is greatly appreciated.

Attendees also had the option to make a small donation to the SCA and take out donated fat tire bikes and Schiller water pontoon bikes. Most folks seemed content to just sit and take in the stellar view of the Selkirk Crest while enjoying the music and catching up with friends old and new. Attendees were encouraged to bring picnic side dishes (the SCA provided salmon and hamburgers) – and boy did they provide. Guests at the event feasted on dips, chips, salads, tomatoes, salsas, pies, baked dishes and fresh fruit and, as mentioned above, it was all good.

As in past years, a silent auction was held, and this year resulted in ~\$500 being raised for the SCA above the cost of the event. The SCA would like to thank the following auction donors: Bruce Yocum (bat house), Kris Runberg

Smith (signed copy of Wild Place), Mary Smith (two handmade birch baskets and bird houses), Cheryl Moody (two batches of cinnamon rolls), Sharon Sorsby (two garlic braids and loose garlic), Bill Sagold (two antique fly fishing reels), Eleanor Jones (four hor d'oeuvres plates), and Linda Check (seasonal dip/chip set).

Would you like to host the annual meeting or a neighborhood meeting at your property next year?

If you'd like to host an SCA meeting, please email Cheryl at moody@scawild.org. This is a great way to help the SCA gain more members and encourages folks to get out and see more of this beautiful region we're working to protect. And it's a really enjoyable opportunity to meet the folks who share your love of the region. Some of the most creative ideas germinate in the informal conversations when we're together.



BY PAUL SIERACKI, SCA MEMBER/SUPPORTER

Original comments requested that old growth be remapped to the current conditions. The USFS refused and instead used old growth identified from out-of-date stand exams. There are three potential issues if the sale moves forward, each of which is described further below: units which appear in the environmental analysis (EA) include unmapped old growth; boundary changes after the decision now include some previously mapped old growth, and finally, flammulated owl habitat could be negatively impacted.



The USFS can modify units but cannot include old growth. As part of my personal monitoring, I requested unit boundaries for Jasper Mountain that were laid out after the Decision was approved. Using my geographical informa-

Ponderosa Pine Old Growth can be restored by removing the small tree understory and then underburning.



Old growth ponderosa pine below the proposed skyline old growth unit in the photo above. Marking is from an older sale.

Since there is no objection/appeal process for this CE, the Forest Service can do just about anything after the fact. There was no way for the public to comment on this old growth discovery except through court intervention.

The USFS is not allowed to liquidate "near old growth" also, however, the term has yet been defined by NEPA and the courts. The team on the Jasper Mountain sale did not attempt to map areas of near old growth by any definition.

Finally, the USFS is going to "restore" a beautiful 7 acre ponderosa pine stand by putting skyline corridors through it to access timber below. This stand will be decimated by the process and can be restored or maintained by non-commercial methods including raking or burning of accumulations of bark at the base of the trees, cutting young trees and then under-burning.

Flammulated Owl Habitat

This small USFS sensitive species is a migratory owl that utilizes older ponderosa pine and douglas fir stands up to 4200-4500 feet in elevation. The USFS is claiming that these birds are locally extirpated because of fire exclusion and in-growth into past open stands. Apparently, the USFS did not complete a survey for these birds as part of their analysis. However, there is a recent sighting of these birds near Newport, Washington by credible birders.

The USFS appears to be precluding the opportunity to restore many acres of dry site old growth, that would not only provide for flammulated owl habitat but would act as a perennial fire break if ground fire were reintroduced. A large area can be restored starting from the small 7 acre ponderosa pine stand downhill through a ponderosa pine old growth stand, and into a cutting unit below. Instead, the USFS is converting an area that historically has mixed regime fires (ground and crown) and more open stands on southerly aspects and convex slopes to patches of even age white pine and larch. There are areas suitable for this tree cover mix but the USFS is creating a problem of having young plantations that are not fire resistant and can propagate fires rapidly over a large landscape and also not restoring flammulated owl habitat.

Restoring this area to its historic open condition with a high fire frequency would make a larger area of suitable flammulated owl habitat that would be conducive for re-occupation if they are indeed extirpated.

In conclusion, due to the inclusion of mapped and unmapped old growth in harvest units, and not managing stands and the surrounding landscape according to pre fire suppression conditions, it is my opinion that the Insect and Disease CE cannot be used and law is being broken. In addition the decision to convert more open stands that have been underburned in the past to even aged plantations will be basically a permanent elimination of flammulated owl habitat.

The SCA strongly urges members to support Alternative 1, which provides the best outcome for native fisheries. SCA members can always provide individual input to IDFG using the contact information listed below:

Andy Dux
Regional Fishery Manager
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
2885 W. Kathleen Ave.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
(208) 769-1414 (main office)
(208) 770-3760 (direct line)
andy.dux@idfg.idaho.gov

Priest Lake Fisheries Group Work Near Completion

BY STEVE BOOTH, SCA BOARD CHAIR

The Priest Lake Stakeholders group, in conjunction with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, has been working for the last 3.5 years to provide a plan for the fishery at Priest Lake.

In the past, it has been managed as a lake trout fishery; at the same time trying to preserve native fish. This two-pronged approach is expensive because it requires netting of some of the lake trout out of the upper lake. This keeps the lake trout population down, so the endangered bull trout and cutthroat can better survive.

Because of cost, a new plan must be put in place. The stakeholders group came up with three alternatives:

1. Restore kokanee and enhance the cutthroat and bull trout populations. This may require some continued netting to hold the lake trout population down so other fish can better survive.
2. Status quo; enhance cutthroat and bull trout in upper lake only.
3. Enhance all species in the lake, including lake trout. This would require a lot of monitoring and surveys; both expensive and time consuming. It could be very difficult to manage.

At their October meeting, the SCA board voted to support Alternative 1 because it provides the best protection for native west slope cutthroat and bull trout. In addition, it is expected to help restore the kokanee fishery.

The stakeholder group met again in mid-November to choose an alternative. Because the group failed to reach agreement on which management alternative to use, they will be going out to the public for input.

< cont'd, left

Selkirk Mountain Caribou Recovery: Update

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tuesday November 1st, board member Bruce Yocum and I traveled to Bonners Ferry to attend the Selkirk Caribou International Technical Work Group (SCITWG – aka “Sky Twig”) Informational Progress Meeting. The meeting was well attended with representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Forest Service, Kootenai Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, Boundary County, the Idaho Governors Office, Idaho and Washington Resource Management Agencies, and multiple Environmental Non-Government Organizations (ENGOS) like the SCA present.

While the process of completing endangered species recovery plans is not new, this plan has had some additional challenges created by the international coordination required, and issues related to the listing of just the South Selkirk Mountain Subpopulation vs. the whole Distinct Population Segment. To put it simply, caribou in this subspecies predominantly eat their winter lichen diet from trees and actually move upslope in winter, while other population segments located in Canada and Alaska eat ground lichens, requiring them to move to areas with less snow (typically lower elevations). This means that animals outside of the Distinct Population Segment (which numbers approximately 1,500) can't be transplanted to augment the Selkirk herd because they won't survive.

To speed up the recovery plan process, about a year ago the Kootenai Tribe subcontracted to the USFWS to oversee the plan development, and hire a facilitator to lead the charge. To speed up the process, the tribe is working two sections of the document simultaneously, the scientific update and the recovery action plan. Mr. Chris Warren of the USFWS, who oversees the contract, explained the new process

being undertaken – and particularly the challenge of working on a recovery plan that is requiring nearly all participants to volunteer their time (there has been minimal state and federal funding allocated to the project). To many biologists this is mind boggling, as we've



seen literally millions of dollars allocated to other endangered species recovery plans, particularly fish programs, over the course of our careers. In spite of these challenges, and in part because of them, there is both discouraging and encouraging news to report.

On the discouraging side of the equation, the South Selkirk Mountain

Subpopulation is now limited to 12 individuals, though two are new calves this year. The herd has seen the most significant declines in the last decade from predators, but animals have also been lost to Highway 3 collisions with automobiles. Mitigation steps to avoid further losses from both causes are underway. For example, maternal rearing pens are also being used to improve calf survival in the larger Distinct Population Segment, and the Kalispel Tribe are gearing up to bring a similar program to the U.S. side of the border.

On the bright side of the equation, David Moskowitz, a documentary film maker, wildlife photographer, and writer, has also been hugely helpful in gaining more national press and attention to their plight (see our Facebook posts for some of his pictures and stories that have made it into mainstream media, including the New York Times). The 2008 acquisition of the Darkwoods Property by the Nature Conservancy in Canada includes much of the area where the remaining South Selkirk herd currently finds

refuge. Both the Kalispel and Kootenai Tribes are also wholly committed to the success of the recovery, and have no plans to allow the herd to disappear entirely without a strong fight. They are applying significant political pressure to the USFWS and other entities, as well as providing significant staff and financial resources to the recovery effort.

The SCA looks forward to supporting the entire SCITWG effort, and may be soliciting SCA volunteers to help with maternal pen construction, and collecting forage for the penned caribou as early as the summer of 2017. In the interim, if you want to designate funds towards caribou restoration work, under the “Donate” tab donations section you can select “caribou”—or write “caribou” on your donation check.

To designate funds towards caribou restoration work, just click that category on the “Donate” tab of scawild.org or write “caribou” on your donation check.

Warren Beach Wetland in Peril? Stay Tuned...

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

You probably can't imagine the depth of my surprise on my first official day as an SCA employee to get an email from two long-time members Dr. Robert and Georgene Bond, who have a summer cabin off Warren Beach Road at the very south end of Priest Lake, near Coolin. The Bonds had just arrived for the summer only to find a large wetland adjacent to them with a "For Sale" sign on it—something they thought could never happen due to wetland protections under the Clean Water Act. The Bonds are avid birders, and have enjoyed cataloging almost 200 species in this area over the last decade. Their calls to realtors and neighbors yielded additional information that the parcel had in fact already been sold to a Spokane developer who is planning a large multi-unit development.

My surprise came about because most of my 20-plus year career as a wetland scientist has provided many insights and years of specialized courses in the regulations which "protect" Waters of the United States, of which wetlands are a subset, under the Clean Water Act. I thought it would likely be months before my regulatory background would be needed above that already in play over the proposed dredging of the Priest Lake Thorofare. Unfortunately though, I had to inform the Bonds that while regulations exist to limit development in wetlands, there are many ways that they can be legally developed.

Wetland developments typically costs substantially more than developments in non-wetlands. This is because specialized engineering studies, design criteria, and mitigation are typically mandated. However, I assured them that if they and their neighbors were willing to stand up and be counted as friends of this particular wetland, there is much that we can collectively do to at least slow and/or detour the development; and perhaps one day see it purchased by a conservation minded land trust or good samaritan.

The Bonds rallied their neighbors, offering to host a neighborhood meeting one Saturday evening in late August. Here, I gave all attendees a Wetlands 101 regulatory course and talked about all the ways we could collectively fight the development—and if not stop it, force design changes and expensive mitigation to make it more palatable to their neighborhood and less palatable to the developer's bottom line. Perhaps to emphasize the importance of the area to local wildlife, a yearling moose calf interrupted the presentation partway through and swam out into the lake from the edge of the wetland, just as the sun set over the lake.

Thanks to the Bonds' quick mobilization of their neighbors—we hope to have good news to share about the area by spring. But, nothing is set in stone yet, so please be ready to help the SCA slow or stop this development if ongoing attempts falter or fail.



Meanwhile, if you see "For Sale" signs around other wetlands feeding into springs or creeks which support Priest Lake or River, please let us know!

Wetlands are hugely important to maintaining the water quality we cherish here, and there are conservation groups which focus on land acquisitions of this nature that we can partner with to keep them from being developed—but only if we move quickly.



Neighbors gather at the Bonds' cabin on Warren Beach Road for an educational meeting and quick mobilization around the "wetlands for sale" activity in their area.

Highway 57 Spring and Fall Litter Patrols

The SCA would like to thank volunteer Highway 57 Cleanup Coordinator Rosemary Yocum for leading both 2016 cleanup campaigns. Nine bags of trash and other items were picked up with during each clean-up. We hope you will join us in 2017!



SPRING CLEANUP (top photo) volunteers included Barry Rosenberg, Terry Turner, Sally and John Elwood, Steve Booth, Bruce and Rosemary Yocum, and Cheryl & Bella Moody. **FALL CLEANUP (above photo)** volunteers included Maggie Drummond, Bruce and Rosemary Yocum, and Cheryl Moody (Bella stayed home to watch the Seahawks).

LIKE SCA ON FB, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

giving us grant money will look at our number of followers and see how much activity our posts are generating as part of their criteria.

So, now that you've "Liked" us – how can you help us generate more positive Facebook activity? That's easy! When you see postings from the Selkirk Conservation Alliance in your feed (i.e. on your page/wall), simply "Like" them as you see them. Why? Because if you like them, they are much more likely show up in some of your friends feeds as well. And, if our post really resonates with you, please add a "Comment" below the post, and/or "Share" it to your page. This will ensure that nearly all of your "Friends" that "Follow" you, will see the post, and if they then "Like" it, many of their friends will then see it too.

Help with Tagging and Sharing: We post a lot of pictures of folks who show up to volunteer their time on SCA projects. On the post to the right, for example, we "Boosted" the post for a few dollars to reach more people through a paid advertisement. You'll see that resulted in over 2000 people who have expressed a Facebook interest in Priest Lake seeing the post. However, we would not have to pay out those dollars at all if all our followers liked and shared our posts prolifically! For example, when someone you know comes out water sampling with us, we likely posted a picture of them helping out on the boat. Because organizations can't "Tag" that person in their post, it won't show up on their personal page, but if you "Share" it to your page or theirs, you can then "Tag" them and all their friends will likely see it too. If they click on the picture they'll end up on our page, where perhaps other posts will strike their fancy and they will "Like" us too!

What kind of Posts can you expect once you "Like" us? Besides pictures and volunteer acknowledgements we'll share local meeting notices of environmental interest (Lakes Commission, Fisheries Meetings, Thorofare/Breakwater, Caribou Recovery Meetings, etc.) as well as updates from those meetings when we've been able to

send representatives. We'll also share fundraising drives and opportunities, as well as updates from conservation partners working on the same or similar issues in adjacent areas. We can't get newsletters out in time to alert members to these events, so Facebook is really our best way of keeping you in the loop about things that may be of interest to you as active members of the SCA. We do try to limit our posts to less than 3x/week so we are not overwhelming your page with notices.

All of our activity and your reactions to it, are called "engagement" and are monitored by Facebook. They provide this data back to us as "metrics" – business tools that help us figure out what kinds of posts are followers are most interested in, and which are most likely to result in shares to new markets, etc. It's definitely the ripple effect. But, even if you simply open an account and we are the only page you "Like" – and you never open Facebook again, it helps us – because the most people who "Like" our page, the better we look to prospective donors and grantors who want to get recognition on their Facebook page for helping us!

Moving forward we'll be including a Social Media Report in each issue of Sightlines. This is to help everyone remember that each time you engage with the SCA you are potentially helping to raise the profile of the organization – and that's a totally free way to find people who may want to join the SCA, without spending a penny in advertising dollars. As we say in the Moody Family, its "Easy, Quick and Fun!" – truly, having a Facebook profile (which I drug my feet on for years) has been a wonderful way to reconnect with many friends I've lost contact with over the years. You may find some too!

Next issue we'll talk about "Facebook Groups, Events, and Check-Ins" and how you can use your Facebook group memberships to bring more awareness of the SCA to people you have never met and not "Friends" with at this time. Social Media Report:

June 1, 2016: 194 Facebook Likes
November 1, 2016: 219 Facebook Likes
Goal for 2017: 1,000 Facebook Likes

SCA Welcomes New Educational Program Coordinator

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last July, Sandra Mansfield agreed to lead SCA efforts to engage younger visitors to this region, hopefully inspiring their commitment to future conservation efforts. Sandy is a summer resident of Nordman (April through October) and winter resident of Spokane, Washington. At 72 she feels called to serve the Selkirk Conservation Alliance as an educator who believes when people know and love an environment they protect and preserve it.

As an educator she graduated from Washington State University, taught in the public and private school systems for 40 years, the Pacific Science Center for 12 years, Mobius Science Center for 12 years, and continues to volunteer for science clubs in Spokane's District 81. The Pacific Science Center summer hands on teacher training classes included animal tracking, birds, trees, geology, ecology, and constellations. Other teacher training included classes in Post Falls for the Idaho Forest Service, and teacher training classes in mining in Sandpoint. We are so very lucky to have her energy and enthusiasm, and are currently working on funding to move two initiatives forward in 2017.

Project 1: Selkirk Specific Educational Paper Placemats

For the past few months, Sandra has been developing themed educational content which will be used on paper placemats that we hope to provide to local cafes and restaurants. If successful with grants currently submitted, we'll

release three new themed designs each year for at least three years.

Each placemat will feature the same border which will help kids (and adults too) learn the names of all the mountains in the Selkirks. The border is currently being crafted by the internationally-acclaimed children's author and illustrator Jasper Tompkins—who has graciously agreed to donate his time and energy to the project too. If you are not familiar with his books, you'll be delighted to find that the Selkirks pose as the backdrop for many of his most famous works (and often out-of-print) to date! To learn more about his work, please visit his website at www.jasper-tomkins.com/htdocs/books.html. We expect to have more news on this project in our Spring 2017 *SightLines* Issue.

Project 2: Themed Backpacks for Checkout at Local Libraries, Campgrounds, and Resorts

Once the first batch of educational placemats are coming off the press, we'll turn our attention to construction of several sets of themed backpacks that encourage kids and their families to get out and explore different natural resources in the Selkirks. For example, a tree identification backpack will include samples of barks and needles, teach kids how to measure the height of trees, measure their diameter, and learn what each species is used for in day to day living. If funds allow, we'll include corer so they can age trees successfully. They'll learn about successional stages of forests and old growth and perhaps find a map hikes to take where they can



photo credit: J. Michael Short

find some of the oldest and largest trees on Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

If you want to help Sandra and the SCA with any of these projects, or fundraise for them – please email sca@scawild.org or call the office at 208-448-1110.

Double Your Donation Today to SCA

Donate by January 31, 2017
and your donation will be matched

Turn \$50 into \$100 ~ Turn \$250 into \$500 ~ Turn \$1500 into \$3000

Donate today in any amount, and get your donation doubled! scawild.org/donation

RUST CAMP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Summer was coming to a close and as is often the case in north Idaho there were forest fires. Our crew was called to a very big fire far to the south in Riggins, Idaho on the Clearwater. They gave us one day of fire training. The basic strategy was to make a fire lane using shovels, axes, saws and a very nice tool called the Pulaski, a combination axe and hoe, like the hoe-dag but much more effective. This is supposed to stop the progression of the fire along the ground but in dry windy weather the fire can jump the line. Then you must move back and make a new fire lane.



The Spokane-area contingent at the Jamboree in Irvine, CA, 1953, attended by some 45,000 scouts.

The Clear Joe took us down the lake to Kalispell Bay and a chartered bus took us south to Riggins, through Spokane, Pullman and Grangeville. It was a long trip and we arrived in the middle of the night. There was a forest service station in Riggins and they gave us sleeping bags and we rolled them out on their lush lawn and slept. In the morning we could see that Riggins is in a deep canyon. The fire was in the Ponderosa Pines on the top of the ridge far above us. We had no equipment other than our tools and we began the long walk out of the Clearwater valley to the ridge.

We walked most of the day on a trail that had four inches of fine dust. It had been a very hot and dry summer. Finally in the late afternoon we arrived at the fire and began making a fire lane. We worked until it was dark and then were told to lie down and get some sleep. There were no sleeping bags. It was very cold on top of the ridge. I slept for a while but soon awoke. A short distance away I could see a campfire and I went over to get warm. It was the cook tent. They asked me if I wanted to help make sandwiches for lunches. I said sure and began slapping together baloney sandwiches. This continued for the rest of the night and for two more days.

Meanwhile my crew continued to fight the fire and I was left behind. They had had some real adventures. One group was in a confined draw and the fire exploded below them. They had to run for their lives up the draw to the top. This was an episode very like what happened five years earlier in the famous Mann Gulch fire near Helena, Montana. There, most of the smoke jumper crew didn't make it to the top of the ridge.

Our guys did but they had blisters on the back of their ears proving just how close it had been.

The crew was pulled off the fire on the ridge down to Riggins and then south along a fork of the Clearwater to a new fire. There were three of us left behind and we were told to catch up with our crew. We went back down to Riggins and spent the night there having a great meal in a restaurant. In the morning a truck took us south in the direction of the new fire. Looking at a map now, I think this fire may have been in the timber above Squaw Creek to the southwest of Riggins. They dropped us off at the creek and told us to find the fire.

By dark we hadn't found it but could smell smoke so we yelled. One of our crew members on the side of the fire closest to us heard and called back and we found our crew. By this time the fire had been contained and we began the exhausting process of cleaning up. We reinforced the fire lanes and we cut down burning snags. It was dangerous because there were pockets of hot ash and stepping in to one could result in a burn.

This dirty work continued for three or four days and then it rained. We were done. We walked back to the highway, were picked up by trucks, had dinner in Riggins and began the long bus ride back to Priest Lake. I didn't sleep. I was thinking about what my dad had told me at the start of the summer. He was enthusiastic about me getting the job but he didn't want me to earn so much money that

I couldn't be an IRS dependent. I think \$500 was the cap. I wouldn't have been close to that except that I had earned so much money on the fire. I'd worked over 100 hours in eight days and for most of that we were paid time and a half. We were being paid on the bus.

I calculated and recalculated what I had earned and came to the conclusion that to not go over the IRS ceiling, I would have to quit when the bus reached Priest River. We got to Priest River at four in the morning and as we slowed down, I went to the boss and told him I had to quit. They let me off the bus and I walked home and got into bed, black with soot and very tired. My mom was glad to see me when she discovered me in the morning. When I had gotten the job, she had not imagined that her 14 year old would be fighting fires. (It turned out my total for the summer was about \$470.)

I worked one more summer for the Forest Service but this time at a camp about 10 miles west of Lamb Creek and you could drive there. I worked the whole summer. There were no fires and no fights. They posted a record of how many lots each of us had passed and I was near the top. One time working a lot I was shadowed for a while by Red Gastineau, the camp boss. Then he came up and told me that they had bad reports on my behavior the previous year but that I was doing great this year.

Maybe I grew up a little in my 15th year but there are no good stories to tell about that summer. (Except that my dad and I had a beer together at Millie's Bar at Lamb Creek).

SCA Office Cleanup and File Storage Upgrades

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the challenges of assuming a new position is getting up to speed on projects quickly. I've been greatly blessed to have the full support of the Board, plus lots of coaching and encouragement from past staff members Barry Rosenberg and Paul Sieracki. Having a capable office assistant like Linda Check is also high on my list of things to be thankful for. Even so, one of my first requests of the board was for permission to move the organization into the current century, so the next person to assume this position doesn't have to pull quite as much of their hair out as I did those first few weeks...

To that end we've opened every file drawer and cabinet in the office, thrown out and recycled boxes of obsolete equipment (including many old lunch cartons—or science projects. Scary!), shredded literally boxes of old receipts, and started producing digital copies of the remaining files that contain useful old project comments, are related to past litigation, or include data, photographs, etc.

After scanning, these are all being uploaded to a digital storage system that is hosted with our email. The digital storage system allows us to set up folders and subfolders, much like a file cabinet, so its relatively easy to find documents that may be of interest down the road. It also incorporates a search engine feature, that will search the text of any folders or files specified to find the file name you've input. So, if we want to find all the old files related to the "thorofare"—as long as that word is in the file name we'll be able to find it. We can also search PDF text using text recognition features, but this can take a fair bit longer.

The email and document storage system are also linked into our new online calendar system. Linda and I each have personal calendars so we can see each others' schedules, but

we've also created an organizational calendar that shows pending grant deadlines, documents related to those grants, and one day—as we are successful with specific grant applications (fingers crossed!), we will have those applications attached for the next director's reference. The grant application dates on the calendar are set to renew annually, so the next person to take on the Executive Director role will be able to better hit the ground running and not miss any immediate grant application deadlines.

Most of you have probably never visited the SCA office, but we encourage you to stop by! It is located in the historic Beardmore Building in Priest River, which is an award winning building restored by Brian Runberg (son of former SCA Board Member Ted Runberg). We share a suite with a couple of other professionals, and our rooms include a board room as well as an office for past/future technical staff. I predominantly work out of my home office near Nordman, but you'll find Linda at the SCA office Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-4.

Next issue we hope to have an exciting addition to the board room to share, so stay tuned!



Mosquito Bay at Priest Lake, seen through the morning forest.

Photo credit: Eleanor Jones

SCA Website Gets Much Needed Update

Since June, SCA contractors have been adding new content and updating our website to include our new logo, donation options, and members only content. This includes many more photographs of SCA volunteers in action, as well as some stunning new photographs of the Selkirks by professional photographer and SCA member J. Michael Short. Please log on soon and let us know what you think!

Unfortunately, if you have not previously supplied the SCA with an email address, we've had to create a fake one in order to set up your member profile for Library access. If you have an email address but have not previously provided it to the SCA, please do so. The sooner we can get everyone connected online, we can greatly reduce our newsletter production costs by simply producing PDFs and emailing them out. Further, you won't be able to get into the members only website content without one!

All paid up 2016 members who have provided email addresses will use their email address as their username to login. Your temporary password is simply your last name—unless there are multiple members with the same last name, then try adding a 1 or a 2 after your last name. If you try this and can't get in, please email us at sca@scawild.org and we'll do our best to reset or troubleshoot what the issue is (perhaps we didn't have your email address to start with, or perhaps we're still in the process of inputting some of the newer members).

Keeping the website updated with current photos and project information is also one of our largest overhead expenses. While both contractors we've used have given a substantial amount of their time to the effort, it's a lot of work keeping these sites up to date. If you have Wordpress experience and can help with minor edits, please let us know by emailing us at sca@scawild.org.

SCA Board Approves Logo Update

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the most challenging business issues for small organizations is their “branding.” The SCA has used a lot of different logos over the years to try and capture the most critical issues of the day/time.

As we approach our 30th anniversary, the SCA Board has worked on finding a new logo which better captures the Selkirk Crest, Priest Lake, and our most critically endangered species, the Selkirk Mountain Caribou. The image to the right is what appears to be the winner! We'd love to hear your thoughts!

Here's a sample of the logos which have been used by the SCA or the SPBA (pre-name change) in the past. How many do you recognize?



**DOUBLE YOUR DONATION
TO SCA BY DONATING
BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2017**

Card, check, Paypal, or visit SCA website to make a donation. To make a donation please visit scawild.org, mail a check, or call the office (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-4PM PST) for office manager Linda Check to process your credit card or Paypal donation. Receive a tax deductible receipt for your donation.

Priest Lake 2016 Water Quality Studies

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We will provide a more detailed report on the findings from our 2016 water sampling at Priest Lake in the Spring 2017 *SightLines*. However, we can't let this year's huge contributions by so many great volunteers go without recognition. Special thanks to J. Michael Short for so many pictures of the sampling process—many of which are being used to update our website.

2016 volunteers included: Captain Bruce Yocum, 1st mate Doug Baker, Photographer J. Michael Short, note-takers Chris Martinson, Skip Chapman, Susan Short, Mark Kabush, Steve Booth, and other support by Steve Castleberry, Wes Yazny, Dr. James Short and yours truly...

Here is a photo collage from the summer program:



COMING HOME, CONT'D FROM PAGE 2

Perhaps it's simply magic that I'm here now, just as the SCA desperately needs new energy and direction. Why? The SCA is truly in a perilous place from an economic standpoint; our 2016 membership and donor income to-date has been well under what it takes to simply staff the Priest River office two days a week, and keep the phones and lights on.

There are currently no funds available to hire technical staff, fund new programs, or even keep all of our existing programs in place moving into 2017. My part-time salary is being personally paid by one member who is committed to giving the SCA a chance to rebuild—but we can't take their generosity for granted! We must get our membership rebuilt, reactivated and engaged—or we also won't be successful in the myriad of grant applications I also have sitting here on my desk...

Throughout this newsletter you'll find several ways that you can help to insure the SCA keeps moving forward, including our exciting year-end donation match program (see Page 1).

Please do your part by helping with as many of these ways as possible! You'll also find a list of other ways you can get more involved with the SCA as we move into 2017. Priest Lake, the Selkirks, our precious wildlife, fisheries, wetlands and waterways all need your time, energy, and financial commitments if they are going to sustain their magic for more generations to come.

Thank you,
Cheryl Moody
Executive Director, SCA
moody@scawild.org

Priest Lake Thorofare & Water Level Studies: History Repeats Itself?

BY CHERYL MOODY,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Those of you not yet connected to the Selkirk Conservation Alliance on Facebook probably don't know that Bruce Yocum has been representing the SCA on the Priest Lake Breakwater/Thorofare/Water Management Study Stakeholder Group.

In July, the SCA also contributed use of our pontoon boat to take representatives from multiple state and Bonner County resource agencies on a tour. SCA member and Beaver Creek cabin owner Mary Ruthaford also joined our boat for the trip up the channel to provide local history and insights on the issue for the agency people in our boat.

We have also been very active at Lakes Commission meetings, and many SCA members attended the noise/wakeboat meetings this past summer in Coolin. One note not published on the SCA Facebook page was the presence of our remote cameras up and down the thorofare this past summer. We've captured many pictures of folks enjoying the slow ride, as well as quite a few abusing the experience. We'll be reporting more of our findings in the Spring 2017 issue of *SightLines* (we've just pulled the cameras off the waterway so will need time to sort/catalog them).

One of the most interesting finds of our summer digitizing work, however, was the recurring nature of "emergency" thorofare studies about every 10 years, shown here.

These stories from the 1993 (bottom right) and 2004 (top right) issues of *SightLines* provide good examples of how these issues keep rearing their heads.

The Breakwater, the Thorofare and the Future of Upper Priest Lake By Joanne Hrabayashi

The decision has been made — or has it? A meeting at the end of July led by the Bonner County Waterways Committee supposedly was held to solicit public input, but according to some who attended the meeting the Committee had already made up their minds: a \$10,000 grant will be used to make temporary repairs to the breakwater. A condition for using that money requires that the Thorofare be kept open for motorized boat traffic, since the funding came from boat license taxes.

However, public opinion was not that unanimous. Although some of those attending did want the breakwater repaired and the Thorofare kept permanently open to motorized boat traffic, others feel strongly that the Thorofare should be left alone and allowed to return to what it was historically. For now, temporary reinforcement of the breakwater is in place. The question of whether a permanent breakwater should be installed still needs a great deal of discussion and research, and some of that discussion will have to deal with the issue of motorized traffic to the Upper Lake.

Although boat traffic through the Thorofare is supposedly regulated in terms of a "no wake" zone and the size of boats, for years there has been little monitoring, let alone enforcement by Marine Deputies, who are stretched very thin in covering the whole of the lake. In the absence of controls, abuses abound.

The idea of dredging came up as one way to handle the build up of silt. Most agree that if dredging were to begin, it would have to continue as a permanent method of keeping the Thorofare open. The permits required for such a plan would require agreements between a number of different agencies.

The Selkirk Conservation Alliance is building up a file of information and carefully following the County's decision-making process. Among the issues that must be

considered are knowing the geological history of the Thorofare and its course before the breakwater was built, having data about natural sedimentation and about stream flow, a consideration of the number of boats coming to the Upper Lake and the impact they have, sedimentation related to wake, speed and size of boat, and as much scientific data as possible prior to the County Commissioners deciding for or against a permanent breakwater. ■



artwork by Eddie Keach

The donation of an 8 1/2 foot pram (a small rowboat) by Jack Nyman allows us to offer an opportunity to SCA members to bid on this prize. A birthday present? Christmas gift?

SightLines • Summer 2004

Corps Alternatives Target River's Water Flow

THE ARMY CORPS of Engineers presented a range of alternatives regarding modification of the water release schedule at the Outlet Dam to a gathering of about 30 people on Nov. 23. The alternatives were the result of the Priest River study by the Corps which looked at balancing needs and beneficial uses between the lake and the river.

The dam was originally built in 1948 and rebuilt in the '70s for the sole purpose of stabilizing the lake level and extending the recreational season for Priest Lake boaters.

However, an unfortunate side effect has been that in low water years such as the last three, the river is reduced to a trickle for several months, impacting river recreationists and fish. In August of last year, SPBA director Gordon West reported having to portage his canoe over gravel bars more than 20 times in a six-mile run below the Dickensheet

Campground. The Corps' task was to develop a plan to ease the river's problems without seriously harming boating on the lake.

The alternatives were all similar in that they only pertained to the months from July through October and would impound more water than at present. The gauge at Outlet Bay now reads 3.0 when the lake is at "normal summer pool." River enhancing measures would maintain the lake at 3.2 on the gauge, the maximum level possible without alteration of the dam, until the river needed more water.

The alternative recommended by Corps representatives would have this extra stored water released at a rate that would keep at least 300 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water flowing in the river during summer. The current minimum discharge is 60 cfs, a volume that is far too low for recreation and is very stressful for the river's fish. West thought that

300 cfs would be adequate for floating in a "durable" canoe.

Idaho Department of Water Resources Director Bill Graham emphasized that any change of operations will require legislative action since the 3.0 level is part of Idaho Code. Another public meeting will take place this summer for the benefit of seasonal residents, so any proposal to the legislature must wait until 1994.

In response to one resident's worry that a higher lake level would damage his property, Graham pointed out that the level frequently exceeds 4.5 feet for two months during spring runoff, and has historically topped 6.0 feet. The 3.2 level would only last a short time until it was used in the river.

Most concerns were over having less than 3.0 in the lake, as many bays are nearly too shallow for safe boating now. The extra water would be a boon for those residents.