Sightlines

www.scawild.org Fall 2018

Newsletter of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance

FEATURES

SCA Takes Public Position Against Proposed Newport Smelter

The Selkirk Conservation Alliance writes today to formally announce its opposition to the proposed PacWest Silicon Smelter to be located outside of Newport, WA. The Selkirk Conservation Alliance (SCA) has advocated to protect the Priest Lake/River watershed for the last 31 years. In our Articles of Incorporation the following is stated as the SCA's objectives:

- To promote and enhance public involvement in, and public awareness of, land and natural resource management and issues affecting the quality of the environment within the Priest River drainage.
- To assist and support interested persons and mem-

SMELTER
CONTINUED, PAGE 9

Hats off to Retiring SCA Executive Director

ELEANOR HUNGATE JONES ON BEHALF OF THE SCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Surely the stars were aligned in June of 2015: Cheryl Moody made the decision to move to Nordman, Idaho and the Selkirk Conservation Alliance (SCA) was searching for an Executive Director. Voila! It has been a wonderful fit for these past three years and our gratitude is endless.

Cheryl's professional life in Wetland Science kept her in Alaska for 30 years but, it was her early connections to Priest Lake and its environs that called her back to the area. Her expertise with soil and vegetation classification, mapping, aerial photo interpretation, wetland mitigation and restoration have all served SCA well.

However, it is Cheryl's leadership of the SCA Water Quality and the Caribou Project that she will be especially remembered. We dare not count the number of hours she spent in her garage cleaning twigs and needles from lichen. Nor can we come close to realizing the hours she spent on the lake gathering water samples, delivering the tubes to a Coeur d'Alene lab, then recording the necessary data for long-term analysis.

This was all accomplished along with successful grant and letter writing, attending Board meetings, keeping Facebook active, attending local issues meetings, rebuilding our GIS mapping program and speaking to various groups about the importance of SCA that in turn built its membership.

Outgoing Executive Director Cheryl Moody on the Priest Lake thorofare.

It's not easy to say farewell to Cheryl as the Executive Director. However, we know, luckily, that she stands with the SCA with her myriad of skills. So, here's to Cheryl – we wish her all the best, and more!

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE (NOW FORMER) DIRECTOR

Some of you may remember my last missive, which started "As I type this my fingers are nearly frozen..." I'm sorry to report that not much has changed! Today, I sit snuggled in my toy hauler, a five-month-old snoring puppy (aka "Pistol") on the floor to my right, and the Seahawks game on mute to my left (currently tied 17-17, :07 seconds to the half). I'm still homeless, though hoping to start "camping out" in my still not complete remodel/rebuild later this week. Unlike in February, when I was reduced to a total of 2 electrical outlets, I'm now basking in the heat of two electric heaters, so I've been able to take off my fingerless gloves for a short while...

Just like the Seahawks before Paul Allen, Pete Carrol, and Russell Wilson arrived, the SCA desperately needs more of its "team" to step up to leadership positions, or to contribute financially at a significant level so well-qualified staff can be hired to lead the charge. If there is one thing I've heard over and over since my return to Priest Lake from SCA members its "how much you love this place."

So, let me ask you a couple of hard questions... Do you love it as much as that new quarter-million dollar wake boat or $50,000 cabin cruiser/fishing boat you've been eyeing? Do you love it as much as the Lexus, Audi, or BMW that you drive up here in? Do you love it as much as the Starbucks latte and scone you splurge on most every morning on your way to work? Because for all the money I see being spent around the lake on people having fun --- there seem to be a lot of members who think that a $45 investment in a membership is enough to protect this area for generations to come...

Not so.

As I begin my first real attempt at retirement, it's time for some tough love. If you learn anything from my 30+ years of work as a professional in the environmental sector, learn this – IT'S NOT ENOUGH! For the SCA to be an effective voice for conservation in this region, it needs a minimum budget of $125,000-$250,000/year. At our current membership levels this equates to everyone donating $750-1000/year.

Now, I'm sure many of you are recoiling, but seriously --- looking around the lake, at the myriad of mansions and expensive boats, trucks, cars, ATVs, snowmachines, etc. --- can we not find 10 members or donors who can give $10,000, or 20 who can give $5,000? Because if we can't, this organization is going to continue to be straddled by cash flow issues and unable to focus on its mission "to engage the public in southern Selkirk resource and land management issues through cooperation, scientific inquiry, education, and economic diversification."

I can already see some of you turning the page – but remember there are many ways to contribute if your bank account is looking like mine after what seems like the world's longest remodel project:

1. GIVE OF YOUR TIME! (I've donated ~25 hours/week of my time for the last 2.5 years... how about you?)
2. GIVE OF YOUR EXPERTISE! (Post retirement, I'll still be helping with caribou and water quality/wetland issues, and newsletter articles – what are you going to contribute?)
3. GIVE FROM YOUR WALLET (In memory of my father, who also deeply loved this place, I hope to continue to be a financial contributor – will you join me?)
4. RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS! (I've drug in most of my neighbors, can you say the same?)

All of these actions can help the SCA turn the tide and continue to be a strong advocate for this region. But if each of you looks away and assumes that "someone else will step up" – you're missing the point, which is – the environment here is under attack by a myriad of well funded sources --- and the loss of our caribou is a VERY clear signal that the ecosystem here is breaking down.

We can't fight these forces effectively with just your $45-$75/year membership dues... so the next time you tell someone how much you "love Priest Lake" – remember that your actions speak much louder than your words... and set an example for your friends and family to aspire to... and please do it quickly! Time really is of the essence...

Cheryl Moody
Outgoing Executive Director, SCA
moody@scawild.org

In Recognition of John Abelson, Board Member

BY ELEANOR HUNGATE JONES, SCA BOARD MEMBER

In 2013, the Selkirk Conservation Alliance Board, using a best practice to find board members who have passions and experience that aligns with the mission, voted to add Dr. John Abelson as a Board member. John's term ends December of 2018.

While much of John's career has been in California, he has deep roots in the Pacific Northwest. Born in Grand Coulee, WA, a high school graduate of Priest River, ID, a BA in Physics from Washington State University, and a long-time summer resident of Beaver Creek, Priest Lake, ID.

It is his love and vision of keeping the Lake water and environs pristine, coupled with his science background that has served SCA so well. Not only has he given of his expertise, he has been a strong financial donor both personally (The SCA Year-End Match Campaign) and through his non-profit research organization, the Agouron Institute (SCA-WSU Water Quality Study). He has also contributed many articles to past editions of this newsletter.

The SCA Board, while knowing we will miss John's perceptive insights, spot-on-observations and generosity, extend our deepest thank-yous and best wishes to John.

Highlights some of John's financial contributions since 2013

- Contributed funds to modernize office equipment and buy the SCA pontoon boat.
- Through his foundation, the Agouron Institute, has contributed or committed to contribute over $200,000 for SCA special studies and programmatic support, including the ongonig Aquatic Vegetation Study.
- In 2016 and 2017, personally funded a year end match program, which resulted in a combined contribute in excess of $25,000.
- From mid-2016 to mid-2018, personally funded most of the Executive Director's salary.
- Together, these contributions have totaled a commitment of close to $100,000/year since 2016.
- Made numerous contributions to our newsletter, scientific programs, and data reviews.

Thank you John, Christine, and the Agouron Institute for your strong support of the SCA.

Priest River Float Resources on the internet

Idaho Paddlers Website
www.grc101.com/IdahoPaddling/GIPPriestBelowMcAbee.html

USDA pamphlet information on floating the entire Priest River
www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsm9_018811.pdf

Prepare Wisely to Float Priest River

BY JON QUINN-HURST, SCA BOARD MEMBER & AVID PRIEST RIVER FISHERMAN AND FLOATER

There is great fun and adventure in floating the Priest River on a hot summer day. Unprepared people are stranded meeting unforgiving rapids and rocks not anticipated, and need assistance. Two deaths have occurred due to drowning in rapids in the Priest River since 2006, unprepared for the swift water. PLEASE be prepared and have fun when floating the Priest River!

Two popular Priest River sections

1. "The Steps" (pullout near 3 mile marker on Highway 57) to the Mudhole. An easy float.
2. From the bridge at McAbee Falls on Peninsula Road to the Steps. A more challenging float.

The public locations for easy put in/take out are only McAbee Falls and the Steps. For a lazy/safe float put in at the Steps and float to the Mudhole.

Be prepared for the specifics of the river:

- Sustained Class II rapids (Medium) short sections of Class III (Difficult) for two miles in 8 Mile Canyon.
- Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) are mandatory by law, especially for children.
- Flat water boats (canoes or kayaks) are not suitable craft for Class II or III water. Plastic rafts/tubes/"floaties" tear on the rocks in the rapids. Heavy duty white water rafts, pontoons, or white water canoes/kayaks recommended.
- Heavy duty large truck inner tubes are a blast when the water level has dropped, which is usually in July as Outlet Dam is maintaining summer levels at Priest Lake.
- Wear shoes/river sandals. Bare feet on river rocks in rapids are dangerous. Flip flops get lost.
- Plan enough time. Allow four to five hours from McAbee Falls to The Steps. Two to three more hours to Mudhole from the Steps.

New Set of SCA By-Laws and Board Committees

BY JAMES BELLATTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE SCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On July 10, 2018 the SCA Board of Directors adopted a new set of SCA By-laws. This was a major effort and the result of several months of work by a temporary By-Law Committee consisting of Board members Betty Gardner, Martin Stacey and Jim Bellatty with the assistance of Executive Director Cheryl Moody and SCA member and environmental attorney Eric Anderson.

The purposes of this update of the SCA By-Laws was to take a close look at the existing set of un-adopted SCA By-Laws and to evaluate them in terms of their consistency with the 1987 Articles of Incorporation, compare them to existing By-Laws and templates and to fill in any gaps for SCA Board consideration.
What the temporary committee found was the need to update and clarify some of the definitions and the articles in the By-Laws (eg. the number of Directors, the rights and responsibilities of the SCA Membership, etc…) and to incorporate a few new concepts, including the need to establish Board committees and committee procedures.

An immediate benefit and result of the By-Law update was establishing a set of three SCA working committees: a governance committee, a finance committee and an issues committee. The purpose of these committees is to streamline SCA process and to allow for timely and focused SCA deliberations and decisions.

At the August 23, 2018 SCA Annual Meeting at Reynold's Creek, SCA Board Chair Jim Bellatty appointed the committee chairs and members, including:

Governance Committee

Martin Stacey (Chair) and Director Eleanor Hungate Jones.

- The purposes of this committee are to oversee the process of providing SCA with strategic leadership, including setting direction, making policy and strategy decisions, overseeing and monitoring organizational performance, and ensuring overall accountability.

- Specifically: Board Succession – follow the process in the By-Laws to recruit/identify Board candidates. Recruit and Hire an Executive Director. Assure SCA conformance with SCA Articles of Incorporation, SCA By-Laws, State/Federal Laws

SCA Finance Committee

Jon Quinn-Hurst (Chair) and SCA members Rosemary Yocum and Adam Kress.

- SCA has some significant finance issues and funding challenges. The purposes of this committee are to track and report on SCA finances and to implement a strategic approach to grant applications and other funding opportunities

SCA Issues Committee

James Lea (Co-Chair), Mark Kabush (Co-Chair), Director Betty Gardner and SCA member Steve Booth.

- SCA is obligated and requested to engage or weigh-in on a multitude of environmental issues affecting the Priest River Basin. Some of these issues can be managed by the Executive Director; others are more significant and require a Board opinion or position. The issues committee enables timely SCA Board engagement and response.

These committees have hit the ground running and are actively meeting and addressing high priority SCA issues. Congratulations to the committee chairs and committee members for their good work and progress and we look forward (as the process matures) to using these committees as an opportunity to actively engage and include SCA membership in our critical work and decisions.

A huge thank you to SCA Executive Director Cheryl Moody and attorney Eric Anderson for their extra efforts and expertise and for bringing our SCA By-Laws up to date.

SCA Executive Director Search

At their September 18, 2018 meeting, the SCA Board established an Ad Hoc committee to begin the process of finding a new SCA Executive Director.

This task, deemed to be our highest priority by the Governance Committee, focuses on finding suitable candidates to fill this important leadership position.

This search could take some time, but the SCA Board wants to make sure that we find the right person to be our new Executive Director.

Please contact any SCA Board Member or Ad Hoc Committee Chair Eleanor Hungate Jones if you have any questions or if you are aware of any potential candidates for the Executive Director position. Eleanor can be reached at ejjones3@gmail.com.

Please use your member login to access the new documents, or if you are interested in receiving a hard copy of the newly adopted SCA By-Laws contact our office manager, Linda Check. Please let us know if you have any questions, comments or concerns after you complete your review.

2018 Aquatic Vegetation Study Update

BY JAMES LEA, SCA BOARD MEMBER

Over the course of the summer Dr. Jan Boll and WSU graduate student, Galen Kornowske have been collecting groundwater samples for chemical analysis and have also replicated the chlorophyll study at Kalispell Bay performed last year.

To review, there has been concern on the part of many lakeshore property owners that there has been an increase of algae and seaweed occurring on docks, pilings and in the nearshore lake bed in many parts of Priest Lake. Last year, Dr. Boll and I ran a preliminary study designed to measure chlorophyll accumulation on artificial substrates of styrofoam glued to a paver.

We found that there was substantial growth of aquatic vegetation in Kalispell Bay over the summer months. Moreover, the areas of greatest growth correlated with areas of known groundwater discharge. Since phosphorus is the limiting nutrient for plant growth in pure, oligotrophic lakes, Dr. Boll measured total phosphorus in the groundwater and found that there is substantially higher concentrations in the groundwater compared to open lake water.

Last winter, Dr. Boll obtained a grant from Agouron Foundation to conduct a two year research project for a masters level student at WSU to study the source of the phosphorus in the groundwater and to continue monitoring the aquatic vegetation.

In brief, the Kalispell Bay substrates this year look qualitatively very similar to last years. Quantitative assessment will take place in late October or November. In addition new test wells were drilled near the lake and one old test well from 1993 was rediscovered. At this time it looks as though the highest concentrations of phosphorus are occurring in the southern part of the bay.

Also preliminarily, Galen has found three wells in this area where caffeine is detectable. Caffeine is not found in nature but only in association with humans consuming caffeinated beverages. If his findings are replicated, this will demonstrate that some of the groundwater has been influenced by human activity. A new test well upgradient of any residences is being placed in mid-October.

Finally, four volunteers from the east side set out substrates and collected data throughout the summer. The data are not yet available, but the pictures give a very clear indication of how different parts of the lake support aquatic vegetation. On the left is a substrate from Mosquito Bay monitored by Dr. Frank Hungate, retired professor of biology at Reed College.

As you can see there is very little growth. The next substrate is from the north edge of Huckleberry Bay near Two Mouth Creek. The third substrate is from the depth of Huckleberry Bay. You can see quite a difference. The fourth substrate is from near Coolin in very shallow water which might explain, in part, the excessive growth.

We are particularly interested in studying further Huckleberry Bay to see if there are similarities to the Kalispell Bay scenario. Hopefully, this will be a project for next year if we can obtain funding for materials and supplies. Our suspicion is that a substrate placed anywhere in Priest Lake prior to pre-European settlement might have looked more like Dr. Hungate's.

"Home"

BY MIKE WAGONER

It's getting to be that time of year again, when, like every spring, the same old perennial question begins to grow in me like fresh needles on a tamarack. "Will I spend yet another summer at Priest Lake?"

There are other lakes, other mountains, lots of nice places I've never seen. I have relations on both coasts. I could go there, but probably won't. I know what I'll end up doin'. I'll drive up that magical little highway, get out, smell the air, and that's all it'll take.

For me, Priest Lake has not been an addiction but more like a contradiction. It has to do with that old saying, "You can never go home again." But see, there's this little spot in Idaho that lets me come home over and over again. It's there where, on occasion, I experience a sense of wonder. It may not last very long, but it'll be long enough to snag me like a treble hook in a mackinaw.

It's hard to feel wonder these days the way everything flies by so fast. It's why I'm tempted at times while sittin' by a beach fire or reelin' in a mystery, to whorl about and just shout "Thank you." Thank you to a place that continues to capture my imagination only to set it free once again.

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The Fascinating Hobby of Bee Keeping Honey Bees

BY BETTY GARDNER, SCA BOARD MEMBER

About 30 years ago, I called the County Extension Service Office and asked how to prune fruit trees. I was told that there was a master gardener, at Priest Lake, Joe Hawley who was willing to put on a pruning workshop at my garden. I said, "Yes, please!" About a dozen people showed up.

I told Joe that I hoped to get honey bee hives to pollinate my garden. Joe told me that he had tried to keep bees at Priest Lake and because of long, cold winters and short summers his bees did not do well. He offered me his hive boxes, bee suite, and various tools. I accepted his generous offer and have had bees for thirty years.

After getting two hives set up, I had more fruit and vegetables than I ever expected and about five to twelve gallons of honey per year. You can find a list of what equipment you will need to set up a hive by contacting the Inland Northwest Bee Keeping Association in Spokane, Washington or your county agricultural extension office for information.

I read books on beekeeping as well and I began to make friends with some really cool folks who kept bees. They mentored me and helped me whenever I had questions. You will have to weigh the pros and cons of whether or not to accept and use old equipment or to purchase new. If you use old equipment there is the possibility that whatever killed the bees in those hives will kill your bees but the cost of new equipment is not small. If you do recycle hive equipment you will have to scorch them with a propane torch to sterilize the used gear.

Once you have your equipment ready, how exactly do you get your hive filled with bees? You will need one queen and approximately two pounds of female worker bees per hive to get started. Find a bee supplier near you and in February, call them and place an order. Last year a box of bees was $135.00. The bee farmer will tell you when your bees will be ready for pick up, about the middle of April.

When the day arrives to go get your bees be prepared to pick up a wooden screened cage about the size of a shoe box filled with bees. I take along another empty box so I can put the caged bees into it to contain hitchhikers who might decide to fly around the car while I am driving home. You could put the bees into a heavy cardboard box in the back of a pick-up truck as well but protect them from tumbling around. In the box of bees, there are many thousand female worker bees, a can of sugar water to feed the bees until they get to their new home and one little tiny cage with a virgin queen bee in it.

Ahead of time, in anticipation of the new colony arriving, I prepare an empty hive body which consists of the box, floor, lid, frames with wax foundation and sugar feeder to supply food to the new bees until they can begin to locate pollen and nectar from the emerging spring blossoms. I put on my bee suite, veil and gloves. I put some strips of undyed burlap into the smoker, ignite it and pump smoke into the box of bees. Smoking bees subdues them and makes them easier to handle.

I gently remove the small cage with the queen in it from the larger box of bees. Her small cage has a cork in it to keep her captured. I remove the cork and put a small marshmallow into the hole. Her tiny cage has a wire strip at the top. I take her cage and hook it between two wax frames, suspending her at the top of the hive box. I then open the larger box of workers and gently spill them into the hive box. They are attracted to the queen by a chemical called a pheromone which she emits and will stay where ever she is.

She begins to eat the marshmallow at one side and the workers begin to eat it at the other. It will take two or three days for her to be freed, by then the hive smells like her. The workers immediately begin to draw out the wax in the frames to create the small hexagonal cells that will shelter eggs, larva, pupa, new bees, nectar and pollen. The workers begin to explore the surrounding ecosystem. The bees have everything that they need: food, shelter and a queen.

If all goes well, upon her escape the virgin queen will begin to lay unfertilized eggs into cells. These will all hatch in twenty-four days as males called drones. The queen will leave the hive on a mating flight and several of the strongest males will follow and mate with her. From now on she can lay fertilized eggs which will always be female or occasionally revert back to laying unfertilized eggs resulting in drones to ensure that if a new queen is born she will have potential mates ready to procreate.

By mid-summer your colony will have its one queen, a few hundred drones and up to fifty thousand female worker bees. I check the progress and health of each colony about once a week by suiting up, smoking the bees and examining the hive. It is exhilarating to see a bee emerge from a cell as it is born, to hear the harmony and hum of the hive and enjoy the heavenly aroma that fifty thousand bees give off.

It takes me about an hour or two per hive a week to work my bees. As the first super/box gets full, I prepare an 2nd box filled with frames of wax and put it on like a high-rise apartment. The

BEES, CONTINUED, PAGE 7

Who, Who, Who Let The Bass In?

BY MARK KABUSH, SCA BOARD MEMBER

Smallmouth bass (Micropterus dolomieui lacepede) whose appearance belies their rather lovely lot in classification, probably migrated down the Pend Oreille River system from Noxon Reservoir, an impoundment of the Clarkfork River many years ago.

They then came up the Lower Priest River and eventually populated both the Lower and Upper Priest Lake in significant numbers. They showed up only recently in the Upper Lake, but some fishermen, our fearless leader Jim Bellatty for one, have been catching them in good numbers this past summer.

Smallies, as they are known to those who fish for them are an aggressive and well armored fish. They have numerous tough scale along their back and a sharp-spined dorsal fin. Their flesh is white and flaky and makes good table fare for those who prefer white meat and have the patience to filet them. On rod and reel they are one of the gamest fish that swim. They often jump when hooked and can pull mightily when they fight. Smallies can reach a weight of five pounds regularly and many fishermen prize them.

Although I have found little research as to the effect of Smallie introduction on our native cutthroat (CT) and bull trout (BT) the former threatened and the latter endangered, it would seem probable that their effect will be deleterious to the CT and probably the BT as well. Smallmouth young feed on the same crustaceans and aquatic insects that small CT and BT do, and their reproductive capabilities are staggering. I found that a seventeen inch Smallie may contain over 20,000 eggs. A CT of the same length will contain about 2,000 eggs.

So here they are, and here they will stay. The overall effect of their presence on our native trout has not been scientifically determined, but given their diet and reproductive capabilities it seems obvious that their presence bodes ill.

Two books with valuable information on Smallmouth and Trout are *Inland Fishes of Washington by Richard S Wydoski and Trout Biol*ogy by Bill Willers. To those who fish for Smallmouth Bass, I wish “Tight lines” and a sharp filet knife.

BEES, CONTINUED

bees get to keep the first two boxes for food storage and raising brood. I get to keep the 3rd box which will contain surplus honey that the bees don’t need and if I am lucky perhaps a 4th box. It takes one bee fifty thousand trips gathering nectar to make one teaspoon of honey or fifty thousand bees one trip to make the same. Each super contains up to ten frames of honey, about sixty pounds or five gallons of honey. Wow, what an amazing amount of bee power went into making that golden ambrosia. The little honey bee is selflessly engrossed in working for the good of the hive from the moment it emerges from the cell until it dies from exhaustion a few weeks later. A queen can live several years.

Domesticated honey bees are relied upon to pollinate over three hundred cultivated plants that human beings rely on for food, medicine, clothing and other products. Over eighty percent of all feral honey bees world wide have died in the last two decades. Domesticated honey bees are disappearing at alarming rates due to disease, loss of habitat, chemical exposure, mono-culture farming, parasites, climate change and genetically modified plant production.

If we see honey bees disappear we will experience rising food costs as we realize fewer choices of foods we now consider everyday essentials. Some agriculture commodities will become scarce and priced out of the reach of most of the world’s human population. This will contribute to famine.

What can you do to help?

Why not consider becoming a bee keeper? It is fun and incredibly interesting.

If that is not something you want to do please become an advocate for honey bees and other living organisms by becoming an organic gardener. Look for natural remedies to pest problems. Plant flowers that encourage pollinators into your yard. Become informed as to how the food you eat was produced and advocate for environmentally friendly agricultural practices. Please don’t use harsh chemicals in your yard or garden. Call a beekeeper if you see a swarm so that she can try to catch them.

In the book *The Hive and the Honey Bee*, an article titled Death of Bees from Smelter Fumes says that in spite of filters which can take many injurious chemicals out of the fumes coming from the smelter, “the high content of arsenicals contribute to the deposit of arsenicals on the surface of plants by wind action and may prove injurious to bees.” Smelter fumes may contaminate honey with arsenic, mercury lead and other heavy metals.

Please become informed about the proposed silicon smelter in Newport, Washington. Write informed letters to our legislators telling them that even small creatures like honey bees are enormously important, not only to their own right to existence but to ours.

SCA Volunteers Help Keep Idaho Highways Litter-free

BY ROSEMARY YOCUM, SCA VOLUNTEER

SCA members Cathy Rasmussen and Laura Westbrook clean up.

Have you even wondered why there isn't more litter along Highway 57 as you drive from Priest River to Priest Lake? Or how those orange bags of trash get there beside the road to be picked up by highway crews? And what are those blue and white signs bearing the names of businesses and people all about? It's all a part of Idaho's Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Program.

The AAH Program is run by the Idaho Transportation Department. It emphasizes anti-litter education and utilizes volunteers groups who adopt sections of state highway right-of-way and pick up the litter. The state provides bright orange bags, safety vests, and traffic control signs.

Barry Rosenberg, Cathy Rosenberg, Bruce Yocum and Rosemary Yocum seem to have adopted each other as well as the highway to clean up.

"There are currently 19 volunteer groups on Highway 57 that collectively pick up 2.8 tons of litter a year," said Robin Karsann, AAH coordinator for northern Idaho. "Over the years, the Adopt-A-Highway program has accounted for more than one thousand tons of trash picked up from Idaho's roadsides, amounting to millions of dollars in savings that were then re-directed to highway construction and needed maintenance to improve highway safety and driving conditions."

"Idaho's AAH program was created 28 years ago in the anti-litter fervor of the statewide 'Idaho is too great to litter' campaign, spurred on by then-Governor Andrus," continued Robin. "On April 30, 1990, the department introduced the Adopt-a-Highway program to help keep Gem State roadsides clean. Through the program, volunteer groups adopt a specific stretch of highway and take responsibility for keeping it clean through regular litter patrols. Each group commits to conducting at multiple efforts per year."

Volunteer groups consist of individuals, families, businesses, non-profit organizations, and government entities. A section of highway is adopted for two years, but may be renewed. The AAH agreement requires litter to be picked up at least twice a year. After each cleanup, the group reports to the Idaho Transportation Department the cleanup date, number of bags filled, total hours of cleanup, number of participants, and comments about any unusual items or circumstances, problems or recommendations.

The SCA adopted a 2-mile section of Hwy 57 in 1991 and has kept up the tradition ever since. Amy Daniels oversaw the litter pickup for the first 24 years, and now Bruce and Rosemary Yocum are in charge. "We pick up litter twice a year, averaging 8 bags and 6 volunteers each time," Amy said. "Over the years, I have met some really great people. It's a good time to visit with others while walking along and picking up trash. We faithfully clean up after those who choose to litter our public roadways."

SCA litter pickups are routinely scheduled for the first Sundays of May and October. We meet at the 16.5 mile marker turnout on Hwy 57 at 10 a.m. Please join us!

The PayPal Giving Fund Supports Anonymous Donations

We know that some SCA supporters like to keep their association with us anonymous. There are many reasons companies or individuals opt to do this.

The Paypal Giving Fund is a registered 501(c) charity, so any contributions you make to them will result your tax deductible receipt coming from them, not the SCA. However, when you designate the SCA as your charity under the fund, we'll receive the funds you donate within a month of receipt with no overhead or administrative deduction made by Paypal.

We'll then issue a receipt to the giving fund for our records – so if you choose to remain anonymous when you make the donation to Paypal, we'll absolutely have no way of ever finding out who you are...

SMELTER,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bers with the public input process concerning the lands and resources.

- To monitor, analyze, evaluate and comment upon public and private land managment policies and activities and other events affecting the quality of the environment, and to inform members and interested persons of the same.
- To cooperate with the public, scientific community, and local, state and federal agencies in the collection of data and information regarding land and natural resources and to promote the inclusion of such information into land and resource management plans and activities; to cooperate with such other nonprofit organizations as the Board of Directors may agree upon and to collect and distribute information to such organizations.
- To participate in the administrative process of any agency or entity in the furtherance of land and natural resource management.
- To preserve, protect, restore and enhance the natural and environmental integrity of the Priest River drainage in a manner that not only protects the existing natural resource-based economy, but also promote sound economic growth.

Our vision statement is: "The Selkirk Conservation Alliance is the leading and faithful advocate to all who live, love and benefit from Priest Lake and its surroundings. We are committed to understanding, supporting and protecting the environment and all living beings found here. We are dedicated to the educational programs and scientific research that support and maintain this rare and exceptional environment for future generations."

A coalition of organizations including CANNS, Responsible Growth North East Washington, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, private citizens and other organizations have previously described the potential negative health and economic impact of this smelter. These include air pollution, odor, acid rain, increased truck and train traffic, and decreased property values in homes located near and down wind of the smelter.

We are compelled to point out the potential negative environmental, health and economic impacts that this smelter may have on the Priest Lake/River watershed and beyond. The smelter is initially projected to generate 760 tons per year of SO2 and 700 tons of NOx making the smelter the 5th largest emitter of sulfur and the 15th largest emitter of oxides of nitrogen in Washington State.

Much more may be generated as the smelter ramps up production in years to come. In addition 85 tons per year of fine particulates (P2.5) will be generated. These are mostly 1 micron particles, so small the lungs cannot filter them out, thereby providing immediate access to the blood stream.

Most of the year the prevailing winds blow from the South and Southwest which will carry this pollution directly into the Priest River Basin. Even in the winter when Northeast winds are prominent, a passing weather system will invariably result in winds veering to the Southwest. Precipitation falling through the chemical laced atmosphere will result in the formation of sulfuric and nitric acid. This will then fall on our environment increasing the acidity of the soil and waters.

The HiTest commissioned PSD modeling study commented on surrounding national parks and wilderness areas in the Pacific Northwest, but somehow failed to mention that the Salmo Priest Wilderness is located in the immediate area and, in fact, is principally located in Pend Oreille County.

Acid soil can have a detrimental effect on plant and tree growth. Our forests are already under stress from 100 years of fire suppression, increased insect infestation and rising temperatures. The effects of this acid rain may change the character of our forest and further increase the risk of fire. The long term effect may result in reduced timber health and harvest.

Pollutants in the atmosphere are predicted to have a negative impact on lichen, the primary source of food for the endangered mountain caribou, in the inland rain forest. In 3 of the last 4 years we have had to deal with weeks of smoke during the peak of tourism. Imagine having to breathe not only smoke from fire but NOx, SO2 and fine acidic particulates generated from this smelter.

The adverse respiratory health effects are well known and will disproportionately affect outdoor workers such as loggers, builders, linemen and foresters. Hunters and outdoor recreationists will also be similarly exposed. The health effects are not confined to the respiratory system but also involve increased risk of cardiac disease and cognitive impairment, especially in the elderly. The potential impact to our tourism industry is inestimable.

Take Action by Renewing Your SCA Membership |

Take Action by Growing the SCA Membership Base--and Its Collective Voice

This is a great reminder for SCA members to renew their 2019 membership and continue to have a critical VOICE on this smelter issue!

Furthermore, SCA needs to recruit more members who are passionate about Priest Lake and want to make a louder collective ROAR of opposition.

Additionally the aquatic environment often bears the brunt of the impact from acid rain. At a level of pH 5, fish may die and their eggs will not hatch. Aquatic insects which the trout feed upon are sensitive at even higher pH. The Lower Priest River was once prime habitat for trout and Dolly Varden. The recovery of this cold water fishery may be substantially impaired by acid rain.

The pollution that causes acid rain can spread hundreds of miles. For this reason the US Environmental Protection Agency advises that regional, not just local, input be obtained when there is the potential for acid rain to develop as

SMELTER
CONTINUED, PAGE 11

Should We Pass on the Bypass?

CHERYL MOODY, OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The coldwater bypass (previously known as the siphon project) is garnering a lot of negative comments of late, although the project is by no means in the development or design stage. Currently, the project is purely conceptual – and scientists have only started to gather and evaluate the data necessary to evaluate both the pros and the cons of the concept. So, let's think a bit about what we do know about this and other water management issues in the region, and ponder some questions we could be asking...

First, why do people around the lake and near the dam seem to accept the modeling done for the lake level raise and proposed dam changes as being "good science" while nearly tarring and feathering the Fish and Game staff members who spoke about the bypass concept at a public meeting late spring? These people said loudly and repeatedly that "these models" never work.

We know now that the proposed baseline minimum flows for the dam and lake raises of 60 cfs have not been vetted by scientists (the water management study consultants have admitted this at both public meetings), and so all the modeling for the lake management study was based on this arbitrary number that has no scientific basis. We can also know this by looking at Table 3-3 from the Wild and Scenic River study which shows previous flows both pre- and post- dam.

You'll note that the lowest recorded flow pre-1975 was 71cfs in August, but historic minimum flows during July/August/September (i.e. the dry months) averaged 188 cfs; over 3x that proposed by the proponents of the dam raise. Even just using the pre-1975 August and September minimum average flows would result in 86.5 cfs. Pre-dam, these same average minimum dry season flows would have been in excess of 250cfs!

So, how can a model that is not built on a strong scientific foundation garner wide spread support locally? Perhaps because it resulted in the answer the most people want to hear... providing the illusion that we can have a healthy river, a recreational season at the 3.0 lake level, fabulous water quality everywhere, lots of water in the thorofare, and all the fish we can eat. The public goes away quietly, the powers that be get their water during peak recreational season (river be damned!), and we all live happily ever after right?

Well, except those folks with minimal elevation gains between their cabins/beaches and the lake end up with flooding, erosion, and beach losses; we all suffer reduced water quality when the combined wave action from wake boats meets the 3-6 inches of higher water levels, and the people downriver are left with even worse water quality (it really is in many ways a dying river), reduced property values, and a dying fishery. After it's all said and done, there will a flurry of arm waving and finger pointing, which will end at a flawed model that no one in Bonner County will take financial responsibility for.

That same Wild & Scenic river study notes that to maintain the water quality of the river system found in the 70s, that maintaining the high dissolved oxygen content is critical. Further "The oxidation rate does, however, depend on stream velocity and water temperature."

As we've discussed in prior issues, the lake is warming, and many streams flowing into the lake and nearly all major tributaries flowing into the Priest River are currently above their temperature load limits. This means that 1) without an extraordinary effort to reforest and re-vegetate all these stream banks and adjacent timber harvest areas, or 2) a major slowing or reversal of climate change influences; that we can only now rely on stream velocity to keep the dissolved oxygen rates in an optimal range to protect river water quality. A "drought" summer rate of 60 cfs does not seem likely to provide the necessary velocity for that objective. If anything, we could probably safely assume that water temperatures in a drought year might be higher. Further, pooling more water behind the dam where depths

TABLE 3-3

Priest River Near Coolin (Before Dam)
Mean Monthly Flow in cfs - 1914-1948

Month	Maximum	Minimum	Average
October	1370	152	359
November	1318	133	458
December	1687	152	534
January	1622	189	536
February	1129	208	489
March	1119	224	548
April	3445	409	1466
May	5919	2180	3699
June	5910	1360	3248
July	3200	391	1341
August	999	242	508
September	821	174	337

TABLE 3-4

Priest River Near Coolin (After Construction of Dam)
Mean Monthly Flow in cfs - 1951-1975

Month	Maximum	Minimum	Average
October	1392	346	863
November	1767	618	1147
December	1482	408	774
January	1868	395	690
February	1935	361	662
March	1236	399	686
April	2571	533	1459
May	5631	2497	4084
June	7207	2169	4174
July	2739	392	1078
August	512	102	296
September	1219	71	277

Source: U.S.G.S. Water Supply Papers 1316, 1736, 1933, 2133
Water Resources Data for Idaho 1971-1975

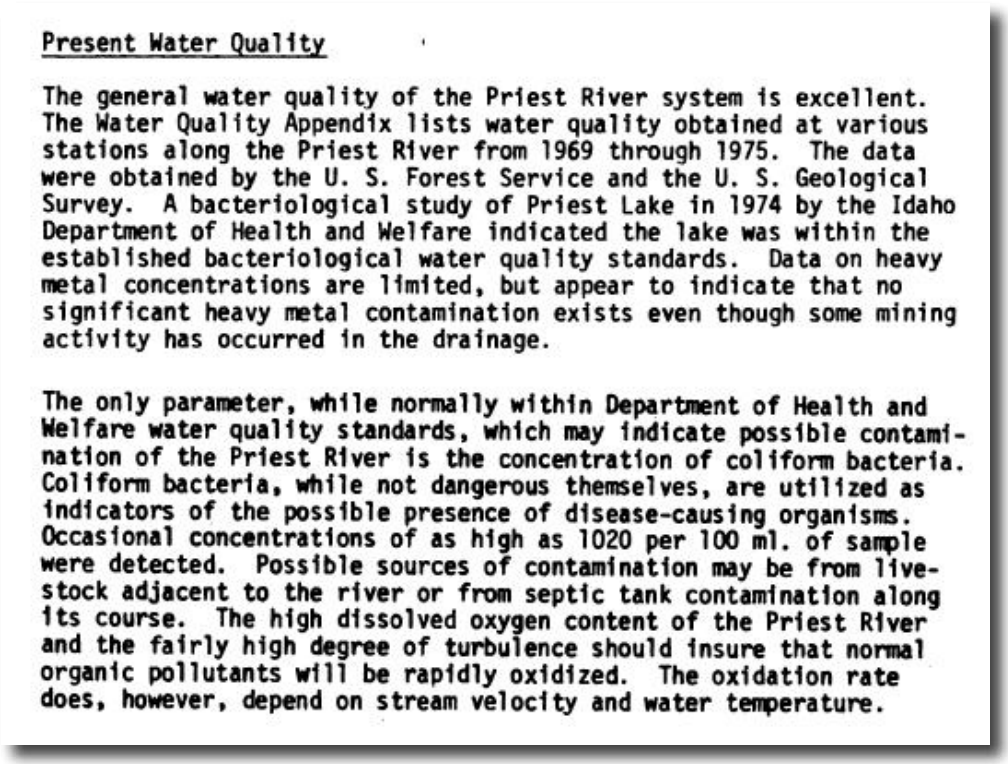
are relatively shallow and more easily warmed has the potential to further degrade water quality in the Match Bay area, as well as send more warm water downstream. Has this been modeled? We don't think so, as the consultants for the lake study indicated they didn't have any water quality data to look at. Since we've provided all our historic data to a State Agency (IDEQ) this seems like a lack of effort on their part, rather than simply a lack of data. The Kalispel Tribe also maintains a water quality station just below the dam which these same consultants could likely access data for.

But, let's get back to the bypass...Match Bay residents are rightly concerned that the piped flow taken from deep in the lake would further reduce the flows going past their properties, because a portion of that flow, perhaps as much as 75% would be contained in the pipe. This means as little as 25% of the allowed flow would be moving past their properties, potentially increasing the stagnation and warming of those waters.

With that in mind, let's encourage the scientists looking at this issue to consider more than one smaller diameter pipe. Let's model letting some of that colder water out into the river at the head of Match Bay, to aerate those waters, and flow through the dam itself. Then, perhaps extend another smaller diameter pipe farther downstream if needed. Let's also take a hard look at whether or not using the colder water will restore native fisheries downstream, because if it can, there is likely Bunker Hill Super Fund $$'s that could be used to bore these pipes rather than having them as ugly eyesores that Match Bay and others downstream would have to look at. Let's ask a lot of questions and get answers before we yea or nay this project!

Also, remember that even if the project were built, if for any reason it started to adversely affect the lake, each pipe would have a cut-off valve that could simply be turned off. There is no reason to fear that the project will further warm the lake itself, certainly not more than all the TMDL temperature challenged streams already are... but if a correlation or stagnation zone developed for any reason, those valves could be turned off and it would be as if the project never happened, except more volumes would again be flowing past the Match Bay properties vs. though the pipe.

Finally, I would encourage those of you who have property in or around Match/Outlet Bays to be paying careful attention to our Aquatic Species Growth Study at Kalispel Bay. We started a similar project in Match Bay this year after hearing similar claims of increased aquatic vegetation sightings. Warming waters with higher nutrient loads may mean you are in for adverse water quality issues regardless of whether or not that bypass is built, so its time you lend your voices to protecting all streams in this watershed, and start pushing for more streamside vegetation restoration projects. And, meanwhile --- please quit fertilizing your yards/flower pots along the water edge!



Present Water Quality

The general water quality of the Priest River system is excellent. The Water Quality Appendix lists water quality obtained at various stations along the Priest River from 1969 through 1975. The data were obtained by the U. S. Forest Service and the U. S. Geological Survey. A bacteriological study of Priest Lake in 1974 by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare indicated the lake was within the established bacteriological water quality standards. Data on heavy metal concentrations are limited, but appear to indicate that no significant heavy metal contamination exists even though some mining activity has occurred in the drainage.

The only parameter, while normally within Department of Health and Welfare water quality standards, which may indicate possible contamination of the Priest River is the concentration of coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria, while not dangerous themselves, are utilized as indicators of the possible presence of disease-causing organisms. Occasional concentrations of as high as 1020 per 100 ml. of sample were detected. Possible sources of contamination may be from livestock adjacent to the river or from septic tank contamination along its course. The high dissolved oxygen content of the Priest River and the fairly high degree of turbulence should insure that normal organic pollutants will be rapidly oxidized. The oxidation rate does, however, depend on stream velocity and water temperature.

SMELTER,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

a result of industrial pollution.

To this end the decision to grant a permit must be based not only on input from Pend Oreille County residents but also on the input from downwinders such as SCA, USFS, Idaho Department of Lands, and Idaho Fish and Game. Other entities appropriately should include the cities of Oldtown, Priest River, Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry, the Kootenai Nation, as well as concerned parties from Montana and British Columbia.

It is clear that the permitting of the PacWest smelter will be not only harmful to the Priest Lake/River environment but also to our resource and tourism based economy. We hold Pend Orielle County accountable to stand by its own Comprehensive Plan which says, "new development is compatible with the surrounding uses, sensitive to the surrounding areas, and retains the rural character of the community".

We understand the urgency that the commissioners feel to find a major customer for the PUD and to provide good paying jobs for Pend Oreille County, but the PacWest smelter is not the right industry for our region for the long haul.

Board of Directors, Selkirk Conservation Alliance

Get to Know an Invasive Species: Ornamental Yews

BY SHARON SORBY, SCA BOARD MEMBER

In continuing our discussion on 'Garden Thugs', many of the plants we import into our gardens and landscaping have toxic parts or properties. These plants can pose a poisoning risk to our children, livestock, pets and wildlife. Many of our native plants are also toxic, but at least our local wildlife have learned to avoid them. Children we can warn and teach; all animals are infinitely curious and will nibble to taste test foreign plants, sometimes to their demise.

The genus Taxus consists of three commonly grown ornamental shrubs – English yew, Canada yew, and Japanese yew – the native Western yew, plus hybrids. The needles and seeds of all the yews are variably poisonous, the non-native yews are highly toxic to horses, cattle, sheep, goats and wildlife; although the red, fleshy seed covering is not. Humans, particularly children, are also susceptible to the toxins in these plants.

Yew species contain several toxic alkaloids, including taxine, that mainly affect the heart. Livestock are accidentally poisoned when yew trimmings are thrown onto manure piles or over a fence, where they are easily accessible. Recently, elk and antelope in south Idaho were poisoned, many of them dying, after browsing yews in landscaped neighborhoods when heavy snows forced them into the residential areas. Yews, fresh and dried, are toxic year-round.

Yews are evergreens with soft, flat, abruptly pointed, needle-like leaves. The upper surface is dark green with a lighter green underside. Leaves are arranged spirally or in a flat plane. The bark is thin and scaly and varies from dark, reddish-brown to purplish-brown. Hard, dark brown to blue seeds are set inside an attractive, red fleshy fruit.

Yews are planted for many landscape purposes. Never plant yew trees or shrubs near horse or other livestock pastures; or where they can escape into the wild. Remove any yews growing wild, especially in, or adjacent to, horse and livestock pastures or wooded pastures.

Evergreen branch clippings of yew are sometimes used to make wreaths and seasonal decorations. Never hang where they are accessible to livestock, pets or children. Never discard yew ornaments or hedge clippings of yew where they are accessible to pets, livestock or wildlife.

Remember, as we plan our gardens and share plants with our friends and neighbors next gardening season, let's not invite any garden thugs home!

For more information, contact the Pend Oreille County Weed Board at (509) 447-2402 or visit our office at 227-B South Garden Ave in Newport. See us on the web at pendoreilleco.org/your-government/noxious-weed-department/ *or email us at* noxweedinfo@pendoreille.org.

Photos, clockwise from left: Ornamental Japanese yew bush, needles, and berries.

Local Timber Projects to Keep an Eye On

The USFS, along with numerous partners and the Panhandle Collaborative, has recently announced a large timber sale/forest management project that could affect 10's of thousands of acres in our region.

If you care about water quality along the river, wildlife habitat, and quality recreational experiences to the south of the lake you'll want to get engaged and stay engaged in the new planning process referred to as the "Kaniksu Community Forest Restoration Project." **See Map to right >**

In Recognition of Captain Bruce

BY CHERYL MOODY, OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

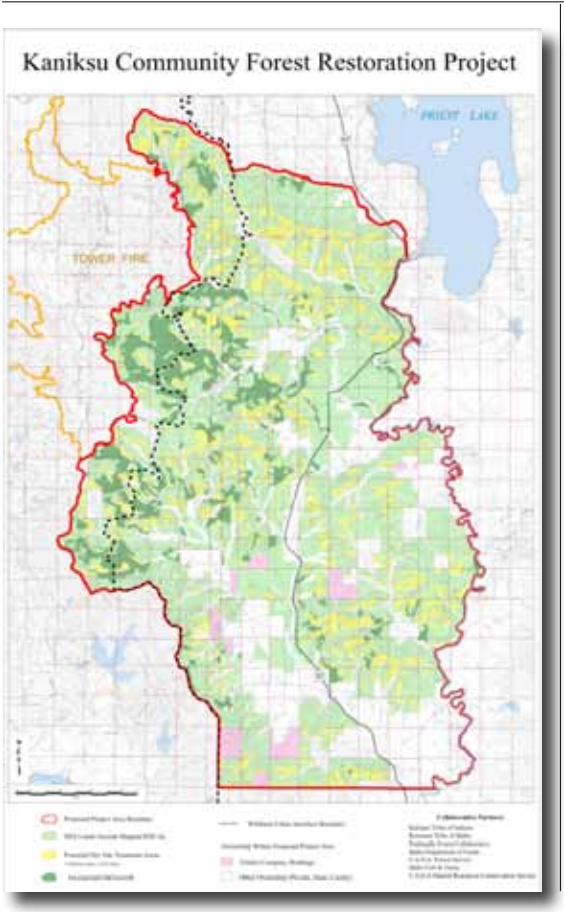
In 2012, the Selkirk Conservation Alliance Board voted to add Bruce Yocum as a Board member. His term will end in December of 2018.

Bruce was responsible for bringing me into the SCA fold in early 2015. Bruce and I had shared many a childhood experience at our adjacent cabins off Neopit Road in the 60s and early 70s. When it was time to relocate here, I found Bruce not far from where I had last seen him --- and have personally benefited greatly from his amazing construction and project management skills, as well as his outstanding knowledge of the area.

While Bruce will be the first one to say a myriad of self-deprecating things about his contributions to the SCA – please pay them no mind. During my tenure, I know of no other board member who has contributed more time and passion to the organization than Bruce! While still working full-time in construction, he gave up many a work day to pilot his donated boat on SCA water sampling trips. After selling the boat to the SCA upon his retirement, he still continued to pilot it – as well as maintaining it, trailering it to the launch, and storing it when it was not moored. He always makes sure there is gas, carries coolers, handles all the prep and demob after each trip – and occasionally takes the water samples to the lab too! Concurrently, he has shown up for every liter patrol, every office move, attended all scheduled board meetings, and hosted clinics and our annual meeting at his Squaw Valley farmsted along with his lovely wife and also ardent supporter, Rosemary.

The SCA, while knowing we will miss Bruce's wry wit, diligent participation in all things SCA, and his generosity of time and practical experience, extend our deepest thank-you's and best wishes.

Smooth Sailing, Bug-free Hikes, and Many a Fish On Captain!



Social Media Report & Facebook Status

June 2016:	194 'Likes'
March 2017:	243 'Likes'
March 2018:	434 'Likes'
October 2018:	492 'Likes'

Please remember to 'Likes' and 'Follow' our page and to 'Like' 'Comment' and 'Share' our posts with your friends periodically. All SCA activities appear as 'Events' on our Facebook page. Whenever we post a new event it helps to promote it across social media platforms if you simply indicate you are 'Interested' in the event, even if you have no intentions of going. So please, get 'Interested' in all the SCA events today and get 'Going' to as many of them as your schedule will allow. And remember, you can also find and follow us on Instagram @SCAWILD.

Selkirk Mountain Caribou Update

This past August, as the SCA was at the table discussing USFS plans to reopen portions of the Selkirk Crest to winter motorized vehicles, we learned that one of our three remaining cows had been killed by a mountain lion.

As we go to press, the Canadian Government is considering moving the two remaining cows to the Revelstoke Maternal Pen as part of a captive rearing program.

If this happens half of the lichen collected by SCA volunteers will be provided to that pen to support their transition to pelletted zoo ration. However, should they go. This decision by the Canadian Government should be seen as a positive one, but it will likely take several years before enough caribou are available to repopulate the southern Selkirk traditional range. We will provide additional updates via Sightlines and our Facebook page as plans progress.

When You Throw a Party, But No One Commits to Come

When we started planning for the SCA's 30th Anniversary Gala we faced a myriad of questions: 1) How much room will we need? 2) How will we get auction items? 3) Will enough people show up? We now know the answer to these questions are 1) Not much 2) By simply asking! 3) No...

So, here's how and what went down...

During the summer/fall of 2017 we called most of the larger establishments around the lake. Most were not willing to even consider the event as they were already booked, or perhaps didn't want to be affiliated with the SCA. Cavanaugh's was the one exception, they were enthusiastic about the event and conservation as a cause, but leery about tying up half of their venue during a peak August weekend. For that reason they understandably had to charge significantly more for an early August peak night vs. a later August peak night. Our board made the prudent decision to schedule the event after the peak season, not knowing that date was also the scheduled HOA meeting night for several of the more affluent neighborhoods around the lake.

A committee of enthusiastic volunteers (Sandi Toone, Sandra Mansfield, Mary-Margaret Brajcich, Betty Gardner, and Eleanor Hungate Jones) was assembled to tackle all the details. These ladies worked HARD on everything from centerpiece designs, menus, invitations, music, etc. I really can't thank them enough as the one bright spot in this endeavor was the privilege of getting to know all them all a bit better and seeing just how amazing each of them truly are!

Reasonable people are probably wondering why the invitations went out so late. Well, it comes down to this; 1) I was in Africa for all of April and early May, and came home to find my construction project had barely progressed during my absence (time for whip cracking!), 2) Cav's was in the middle of staffing for the summer when I returned and could not immediately provide us with table and cost figures, 3) Our "go to printer" was overwhelmed by a bridezilla, and didn't find time to let us know they couldn't print the invitations in a timely manner, and 4) after redirecting to FedEx Office for printing, FedEx delivered them a day later than agreed upon, which meant a total of 4 day delays due to a holiday weekend, etc. All these things contributed to the late delivery --- but at the end of the day it was I who failed you, because I just couldn't find enough hours in each day to handle all the fires that were put in front of me between the water program, caribou issues, my construction project, the gala, and the new puppy!

Even so, the invitations went out (we thought they were gorgeous – did you?) but after a flurry of initial bookings, only 42 tickets were sold. This meant that even if we were able to get the maximum donated amount for all the donations received (stay tuned) we would not come close to breaking even, and were likely to lose more than the room deposit that was already committed to. Finances being what they are, we had to make the difficult decision to abort.

To those of you who said after the fact that "I didn't know about this until too late" I direct you to 1) your Spring Sightlines, 2) our Facebook Page, 3) a multitude of emails sent to the email address you provided the SCA, and 4) if you're a member – the invitation you would have received at the mailing list you have provided to the SCA. We can't force you to read our communications – but if you didn't know, it was because you have elected to disengage from the SCA or not to provide current contact information, not because we didn't make multiple attempts to inform you of the opportunity. Yes, more tough love...

Always being taught to end on a high note, what we did learn was that there really are a LOT of businesses and individuals in this area who were not only willing to donate items to the auction, they were happy to have those donations publicized and their support of the SCA broadcast widely. This was a revelation and certainly bodes well should a future event of this type be attempted by others down the road. That said, please patronize the businesses listed on the back cover, page 16, of this issue--and the individuals--and THANK THEM PROFUSELY for their support of the SCA the next time you have an opportunity...

Volunteers Needed for Bonner County Lake Plan

Bonner County has announced it is looking for volunteers to prepare an update to the Priest Lake Management Plan. A meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2018, at the Priest Lake Elementary School at 6 PM.

Volunteers are expected to meet at least one time per month for approximately 18 months as part of this important planning process.

Don't Forget Year-end Corporate Matches!

If your employer uses the Benevity Platform, you can contribute to the SCA and have your employer match all or a portion of your contribution.

Similarly, the Boeing Employee match program was used last fall by two SCA donors.

The Schneider Electric Foundation's employee match program and the Stellar Solutions Companies also provided matches to the SCA this past year.

In 2017, corporate match programs donated over $2,000 to the SCA – a significant amount of money to a small non-profit! If your employer offers a match program, please consider nominating the SCA to their giving platform.

SCA Welcomes Two New Board Members

BY CHERYL MOODY, OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we say goodbye to Steve Booth, John Abelson, and Bruce Yocum on our Board of Directors – we're pleased to announce two new highly qualified and enthusiastic members have stepped up to help fill the void.

JONATHAN QUINN-HURST: This past July, Jonathan Quinn-Hurst joined the Board, filling the seat left absent by Steve Booth. Jon and his wife Mary live "off the grid" on a section of Priest River known as 8 Mile Canyon, originally purchasing acreage in 1980. They have been inspired to apply the ethics of stewardship and preservation in managing the property. The river has been a source of recreation and wonder, raising their children to also desire to preserve, which is being passed on to another generation (grandkids!) . This has led to studies in forest management through the University of Idaho Master Forest Stewardship program, membership in the Idaho Forest Owners Association, and learning bio control of noxious weeds. They have lived full time on Priest River since 2009. Jon retired in 2017 from a career as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Jonathan Quinn-Hurst.

Fly fishing has resulted in many hours wading and floating the river. Cross country skiing is the winter activity and hiking in the summer, exploring the Selkirk range year around. He sees the importance of seeking a balance between resource management and protection of the valuable Priest River drainage.

Jon has previous board experience through the Spokane County Community Services Administrative Board, the Pacific Northwest Ski Education Foundation, Pacific Northwest Nordic Competition Committee, Food Bank of Alaska Board, Cross Country Alaska and the Campbell Tract Trail Advisory Committee in Anchorage, AK.

Curtis Wickre,

CURTIS WICKRE MD: Curtis went to College in Tacoma at Pacific Lutheran University majoring in Biology and Chemistry. After strongly considering a career in Marine Biology, he elected instead to go to Medical School at Oregon Health Sciences University. He completed an Internal Medicine Residency at Vanderbilt and then returned to Oregon for a Nephrology fellowship with associated research experience.

After completion of training in 1982, Curtis moved to Spokane with his wife Nancy and two young children. Initially, his primary career focus was the medical direction of Sacred Heart's new Kidney Transplant program and subsequently Medical Direction of the constantly changing Inland Northwest Dialysis services. After many years of caring for patients with chronic kidney disease, he retired in 2017.

Curt's experience in environmental Biology is limited to his college days. At that time he completed a research study for a Marine Biology course requiring water sampling of biological diversity in the effluent drainage bay of a pulp mill in Tacoma, Washington. What he remembers most about that time was the hours spent with his professor in a motorized skiff collecting water and sediment samples with subsequent quantification of plankton species! As a Medical Director of Dialysis programs however, he was responsible for the critical water treatment of dialysate, ensuring safe chemical and biological quality for patient care. Patient quality outcomes was my passion.

Although Curtis does not bring experience to the Board in Ecology or Biological studies, he brings a scientific frame of mind, and a strong interest in maintaining our Priest Lake Environment.

Advertising Opportunities in *SightLines*

To help offset newsletter production costs, a business card advertisement is now being offered at $35/year, a quarter page for $75, half-page for $150, and full page for $300.

Digital submissions of advertisements should be sent via email to sca@scawild.org no later than April 1 for our spring newsletter and by October 1st for our fall edition. Each ad will run for two consecutive newsletters.

We will contact you for payment upon receipt, review, and acceptance of your print copy. The SCA reserves the right to reject advertising that is not consistent with our mission or is deemed otherwise offensive by our Board of Directors.

SCA Hosts Second Wildlife Tracking Clinic

BY CHERYL MOODY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

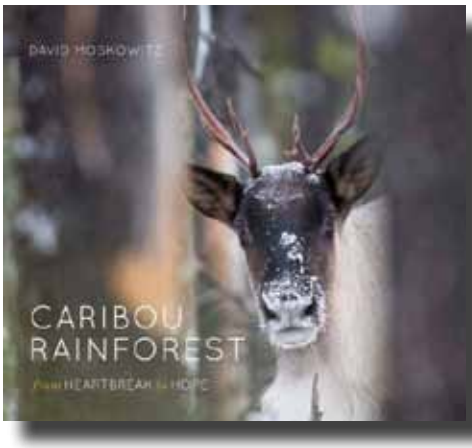
This past August, the SCA again hosted a David Moskowitz Wildlife Tracking Clinic at Priest Lake. Bruce and Rosemary Yocum graciously hosted the event, even letting attendees camp on their property --- and provided a lovely meal for everyone that Saturday night.

As with last year's event, and evidenced by all the smiles in this photograph (taken by Rosemary Yocum), by all accounts the attendees had a marvelous time. This year they visited two sites identified during last year's clinic, and also made a trip north to Hughes Meadow.

Thanks to David for making the trek east from his home in Winthrop, and for his continued support of the SCA, which most recently included a license to use numerous spectacular photographs he has taken in the Selkirk region on our web page and in related promotional materials.

David's new book, *Caribou Rainforest, from Heartbreak to Hope*, is being published by Braided River Books this fall and would make an excellent holiday gift for anyone who loves the Selkirk region.

You can order your copy of *Caribou Rainforest, from Heartbreak to Hope* at www.mountaineerbooks.org.



Businesses and individuals to thank for their support of the SCA.
And businesses to patronize the next time you have the opportunity...

Albeni Falls Building Supply, Oldtown
Autumn's Loft, Priest Lake
Barrel 57, Priest Lake
Cavanaugh's Resort, Priest Lake
Jan Bock, Spokane
Mary Margaret Brajcich, Spokane
Keith Currie, Photographer, Spokane
Entrée Gallery, Nordman
Betty Gardner, Priest River
Genny Hoyle, Swiftwater Logistics LLC
Richard & MaryJane Hungate, Seattle
Bonnie Hungate-Hawk, Seattle
Eleanor Hungate Jones, Seattle
Jewelry Design Center, Spokane
Mark Kabush, Nordman
Mike Lithgow, Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Madelines, Spokane
Robert & Sandra Mansfield, Nordman
David Moskowitz, Winthrop
Mountain Gear, Spokane
Betsy O'Halloran, Spokane
Owens Auction, Spokane
Priest Lake Golf Course
REI, Spokane
J. Michael Short, Photographer, Pullman
John Stockton, Coolin/Spokane
Thick N'Thin Meats, Priest River
Sandi Toone, Priest Lake
Bruce & Rosemary Yocum, Priest River