Sightlines

www.scawild.org Fall 2020

Newsletter of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance

FEATURES

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

East Priest Lake Stream Monitoring Program

BY CURTIS WICKRE, SCA BOARD MEMBER

The clear, cool, bubbling mountain streams and tributaries filling Priest Lake are truly beautiful to behold. Their pristine appearance however, should give us pause to consider the environmental frailty of the critical water source for this spectacular Idaho Panhandle lake.

Section 303 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states and tribes to adopt water quality standards to protect fish and wildlife habitats. Do you know that most of the streams feeding the eastside of Priest Lake do not meet the quality water standards as defined by the adopted guidelines? In 1998, Soldier, Two Mouth and Lion Creeks were placed on the water quality impaired list (303d). Indian and Trapper Creeks were added in 2002 and Hunt Creek followed in 2012. Although the water temperature supports cold water aquatic life, the deficiencies in all the streams were based on water temperature exceeding guidelines for salmonid spawning and Idaho Bull Trout support.

Water temperature guidelines for lake streams are defined as Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) and based on requirements of aquatic species for survival. Solar loading by sunshine, stream bed characteristics, and shading by Potential Natural Vegetation (PNV) all contribute to the goal TMDL guideline calculation. The fine points of the calculations and guidelines may be argued, but all can agree that cool water is good for our mountain lake. Support of cold water aquatic life requires daily maximum (max) stream temperatures below 22 degrees C and daily average (avg) temperatures below 19 degrees C; salmonid spawning requires daily max/avg water temperature of 13 C / 9C. Bull Trout requirements are even more stringent.

Selkirk stream crossing by bobcat.
photo by Michael Lucid, Wildlife Regional Biologist

Why are our streams temperature impaired? Although there are many potential contributors including climate change and human impact, documented stream solar loading is excessive in deficient streams. In other words, the streams are not getting as much shade as they should have. Destruction of stream shading by historic logging most likely contributes. A drive north along Priest Lake on the Eastshore Road draws attention to a small portion of the timber sales recently auctioned by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). Although Idaho Forestry Practice Act rules require 75 foot logging setbacks from Class I streams, stream shading is likely adversely impacted by logging. Clearing of extensive

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Fall 2020 edition of *Sightlines*! Thus far, the year 2020 has proven to be a challenging year. That could be an understatement, but for SCA, we have done our best to maintain a sense of calm and balance while the world seems to be rotating with a slight wobble.

One of the most difficult and disappointing decisions which your SCA Board of Directors had to make was to cancel our annual membership meeting. That was truly unfortunate. In our view, the health and well-being of our membership is more important than a meeting. Normally, the SCA Board looks forward to this annual meeting as an opportunity to visit with our members and to share ideas, concerns and information and to connect on a personal level.

One aspect of the annual SCA membership meeting that we cannot sidestep is the election of our Board of Directors. As you know, SCA is a "membership" organization. Eligible members are entitled, as per the SCA by-laws, to elect directors to three-year terms. Enclosed in this *Sightlines* newsletter is a ballot, prepared by our SCA Governance Committee, which allows eligible members to vote on who will represent you on the SCA Board of Directors in 2021. I encourage you to fill in your ballot and return it with the enclosed envelope.

I hope you find this fall edition of *Sightlines* to be interesting and informative. One of SCA's strategic goals is to do a better job of engaging and expanding our membership. The Board of Directors has identified three objectives to meet this goal:

1. Actively reach out and engage SCA members by preparing and distributing informational and promotional materials.
2. Improve SCA's online presence by updating and maintaining our web page, Facebook and Instagram accounts.
3. Actively reach out to seek new membership.

One small step in that direction, in this edition of *Sightlines*, is to include an SCA Member Profile and an SCA Member Letters feedback section.

Please let us know if you find these personal insights helpful or if you have other ideas on how we can meet these objectives. We encourage you to share your perspective - I assure you that we will follow up on your input.

As we close out 2020 and look forward to a new and less stressful year ahead, I sincerely hope that you and your family and friends have a safe and healthy holiday season.

We appreciate our members and your financial support throughout the year!

Jim Bellatty, SCA Board President
sca@scawild.org

SCA Online

One of SCA's strategic objectives is to do a better job of maintaining an online presence – to get our name out there - and to attract or recruit the younger generation to become members and "faithful advocates to all who live, love and benefit from Priest Lake and its surroundings." SCA currently has an online presence at three places:

SCA Web Page (scawild.org)
Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/SCAWILD)
Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/scawild)

Please let us know your thoughts on how we can improve our online presence and whether you are willing to volunteer your time or help SCA with this important task! Thank you!

Selkirk Conservation Alliance

Mission

Engage the public in southern Selkirk resource and land management issues through cooperation, scientific inquiry, education and economic diversity.

Vision: 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.

SCA Needs A Highway 57 Cleanup Coordinator!

As you drive north from Priest River to Priest Lake on Highway 57, you will see a red, white and blue sign, an Adopt-A-Highway sign, which is assigned to the Selkirk Conservation Alliance. SCA has been cleaning up roadside litter and other debris at this stretch of the highway for the past 29 years.

In 2021, we need someone who is willing to step up and help coordinate SCA's volunteer crew. Are you willing to do this - help SCA to keep Highway 57 scenic and free of trash?

You might ask, what does this entail? Typically, we have 4-6 volunteers who park their vehicles at milepost 16.5, the northern boundary of the SCA section.

The crew does a cleanup twice per year, once in the spring and again in the fall. The total amount of time required for each cleanup is approximately two hours. Gloves, vests and trash bags are provided and the safety of our crew is our number one priority and concern.

The coordination part requires working with the Idaho Dept. of Transportation on the details of our cleanup and making sure that we have enough supplies and volunteers. Most would agree that Highway 57 is a beautiful stretch of highway. SCA is willing to do our part to keep it that way if we can find a Highway 57 Cleanup Coordinator.

Please let us know via email (sca@scawild.org) or call the SCA Office at 208-448-1110 if you are willing to help coordinate this important Adopt A Highway program. You will not regret it - in fact, you might have some fun and meet some interesting SCA members too!

Governance Committee Report

BY MARTIN STACEY, SCA BOARD MEMBER, GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

The terms of four current board members end at the close of 2020. Each has expressed a desire and commitment to continue to serve and carry out the SCA mission for another three-year term. If you are interested in more information about the board candidates, it is available on scawild.org. As we will not be able to gather together and elect directors at the annual meeting as in the past as our bylaws provide, please complete and mail the ballot enclosed. An envelope is provided for your convenience.

Thank you for your membership and your abiding commitment to safeguarding this most extraordinary corner of the world. Your membership and vote are the foundation of our mission and does make the difference.

Consider serving SCA as a volunteer. Perhaps you, or someone you know, is interested and willing to serve on the board of your Selkirk Conservation Alliance. All good wishes and we look forward to the time when we can all be together again.

Meet SCA Intern Sydney Squires

My name is Sydney Squires and I am an Environmental Science major at the University of San Diego in San Diego, California.

I chose to study Environmental Science because I love learning about the world around me. When not active in NROTC or Alpha Chi Omega, I enjoy backpacking and fly fishing.

Priest Lake has always held a special place in my heart and I can think of no better place to have gained internship experience. This summer I helped Tracy Morgan further develop a citizen science project to monitor forest health in the Priest Lake Basin.

Priest Lake is a beautiful place and I am so grateful I was able to work with SCA to help keep it that way. Thank you to everyone at SCA for an amazing summer experience!

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areas of forest surrounding streams could result in warmer microclimates contributing to stream temperature rise.

Review of the IDL website outlines each of the timber sales and the stream drainages impacted by the logging. IDL timber sales in East Priest Lake drainages can be summated as follows (1 MBF timber = 1000 Board Feet):

- 2017-2020 sales - 62,525 MBF on two or three year contracts
- Up for auction 2020 - 6,650 MBF
- Proposed or in Review - additional 9900 MBF

The map (below) shows IDL timber and pulp harvests in the east Priest Lake drainage.

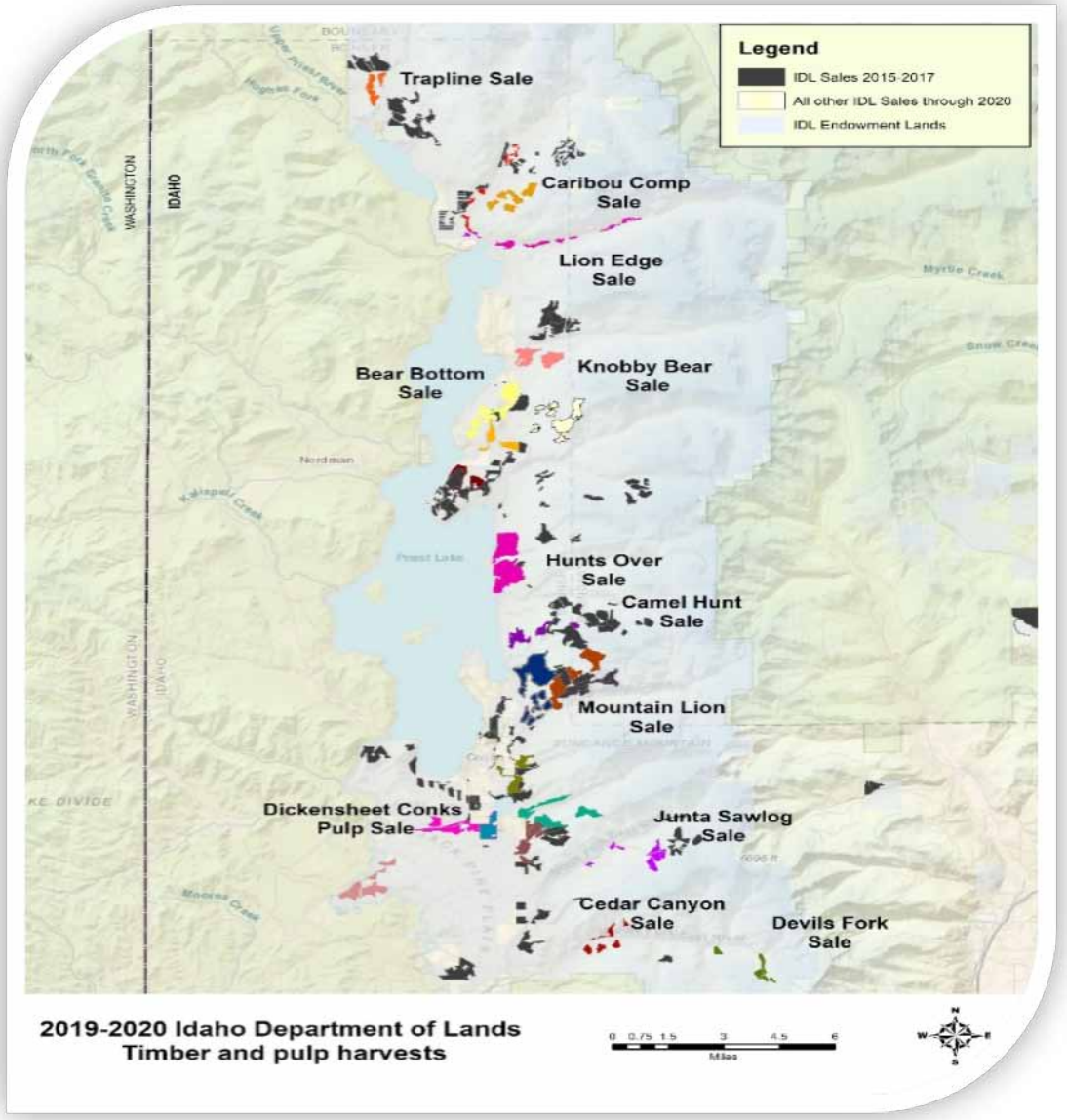
The volume of planned and proposed logging raises a legitimate concern that future loss of stream shading could further impact east Priest Lake stream water temperatures and adversely the aquatic health of Priest Lake.

Because of this concern, the SCA Board has approved development of a monitoring program of east Priest Lake streams. Baseline single point data including temperature, pH, nitrogen and phosphorus was obtained from 10 sites in July and September this summer. Water temperature evaluation and comparison with historic data requires the use of specialized continuous temperature monitoring devices implanted strategically in multiple streams. Equipment purchase and methods are being developed.

Above: SCA board member Jim Lea installs a water temperature sensor.

Hopefully, monitoring devices will be coming to an east Priest Lake stream near you soon. Each "Tidbit Sensor" and mounting hardware is about $150 expense.

If you would like to adopt a stream temperature sensor, your financial and personal support would be most welcome!



Report: SCA Budget Update October 2020

BY JON QUINN-HURST, SCA BOARD MEMBER, FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

The 2020 budget continues to be monitored on a quarterly basis by the SCA Finance Committee. The committee includes Jon Quinn-Hurst, Jon Miller, Adam Kress and Jim Bellatty.

The 2020 Budget continues to remain balanced and meets the expenses for projects and staffing in this budget year. The ongoing projects include support of the water quality sampling/testing at Priest Lake, water quality monitoring invasive aquatics in Kalispell Bay, and the conclusion of Phase II of the GIS grant project. The SCA Board has also approved expansion of water sampling to include the tributaries on the East side of Priest Lake to assess the potential impact of logging on the streams.

The Selkirk Conservation Alliance is THE environmental advocacy organization of the Priest Lake basin with legal standing on environmental issues. There are challenges and opportunities on the horizon for the basin, and to meet these the Board of Directors has chosen to focus on increasing membership income and donations. Due to respecting the necessary restrictions to reduce risk during the pandemic, fundraising efforts have been severely limited this year.

The SCA has an all-volunteer Board of Directors. SCA has one paid employee, Robin Maloney, our Office Manager. Robin works diligently two days a week in the office located in the Beardmore Building, Priest River. Robin ably assists the Board in all aspects of the work done by SCA.

To best serve the mission and vision of SCA, the Board has determined that the organization will hire an Executive Director. To be able to do so, we need to raise more money through increased memberships and donations.

SCA is thankful for all of our dedicated members who have supported the goals and projects through membership and donations. The Selkirk Conservation Alliance Board sincerely requests that you talk with your friends and neighbors about the work of SCA and encourage them to join SCA to support its work in monitoring and protecting the environment of the Priest Lake Basin. Donations in addition to memberships are always greatly appreciated.

In summary, we have a tight balanced budget that we are closely monitoring, and our goal is to continue to fund the research, education and advocacy work of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance. We rely on member support and donations, so please keep SCA in mind as we continue to strive to Keep the Wild in the Selkirk Ecosystem.

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Citizen Science for SCA

BY TRACY MORGAN, SCA STAFF SCIENTIST

Selkirk Conservation Alliance received funding for development of a citizen science program. Citizen Science is not new to our organization, SCA volunteers have been collecting water quality data for decades. This work has been invaluable and so funding sought to identify other ways of measuring important factors in the Southern Selkirk Range.

Two interns Paul Hurst (Gonzaga University) and Sydney Squires (University of San Diego) were supervised by Tracy Morgan (SCA Staff Scientist) to look into ways residents and visitors in our region can participate in measuring the ecological well-being of our beloved area.

There are an infinite number of indicators of ecological health and so the first task was to identify metrics that would be meaningful and attainable by the non-scientist. The students narrowed the possibilities down to two categories:

- tree (forestry) metrics and
- animal tracking.

We did not find many forestry-based citizen science programs to use as a template for our work. Instead, our interns did research on standard forestry practices to then translate those into activities laypersons could do.

We have outlined both high-tech and more down to earth tools for taking tree measurements such as string for DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) and a homemade clinometer (for tree height). What do these measurements tell us? These are the measurements foresters use to determine speed and species type of tree regeneration after a harvest.
The second part of the project is to track tracks – animal tracks! While cameras and collars on rare species can tell us a great deal, it is both expensive and time consuming. We hope those already out recreating in the wilderness will help us find “where the wild things are”!

We are looking at cross over with the NASA Globe Observer program for future overlap of goals too. Still, this project is unique.

There are many threats to wildlife and habitat resiliency and we hope to act locally by inspiring our neighbors to help us determine what forest practices are benefitting or potentially harming our inland rainforest ecosystem.

SCA Signs-On to Support Important Policies and Legislation

On occasion, SCA is asked to sign letters and to join forces with like-minded organizations to support important policies and legislation. These proposals are shared with the SCA Issues Committee for their consideration and recommendation.

Below are two examples of letters which SCA agreed to sign and support:

Wilderness Watch (wildernesswatch.org)
Chair Raúl Grijalva
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 10515

October 22, 2020
Dear Chair Grijalva,

On behalf of our hundreds of thousands of members and supporters across the country, we write to urge you to modify the congressional direction for livestock grazing practices in designated Wilderness, which is currently reflected in the Congressional Grazing Guidelines (CGGs) (adopted in H. Rpt. 96-617 and H. Rpt. 101-405). Specifically, Congress should direct the closure of vacant allotments under specified conditions, make clear managers have the authority to act to reduce resource impacts and conflicts, and ensure that motorized and mechanized use is limited to exigent situations as the current guidelines intended, and not for routine management practices, which appears to be a growing trend with administering agency authorizations. Changes are needed to better protect natural resources and wilderness values in these areas...
We appreciate your attention to this matter and again strongly urge you to modify congressional direction for livestock grazing practices in designated Wilderness so administration of our nation's Wildernesses will better reflect the goals of the Wilderness Act by preserving areas "where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man," by "retaining [the area's] primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements," and by "protect[ing] and manag[ing] to preserve its natural conditions."

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Grand Canyon Trust
Animal Welfare Institute
WildEarth Guardians
Wilderness Watch
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Western Watersheds Project
Grazing Reform Project
Friends of the Clearwater
Sequoia ForestKeeper®
West Virginia Wilderness Coalition
Selkirk Conservation Alliance

Idaho Conservation League
(idahoconservation.org/)

June 5, 2020
Dear Friends,

I am writing to invite your organization to consider signing onto the attached letter supporting the Great American Outdoors Act, which will be up in the Senate for a final vote as soon as Monday, June 8.

Given the ongoing challenges associated with the Coronavirus Pandemic, and unprecedented unemployment, this legislation is more important than ever. The bill will provide funding for deferred maintenance in our parks, forests and other public lands. In addition, the bill will permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) which is important for both recreation, conservation, land protection and maintenance. Two fact sheets are attached with additional information on the bill and how the LWCF has supported parks, recreation and conservation across the state of Idaho.

Please also feel free to share the letter with other organizations or interested parties who you feel might be interested in signing on.

Thank you, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions,

Jonathan

Jonathan Oppenheimer
External Relations Director
Idaho Conservation League
PO Box 844, Boise, ID 83701

Note: The Great American Outdoors Act was passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump on 4th August 2020. It has two major components: fully and permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund and provides $9.5 billion in funding to address a maintenance backlog at American national parks. The Associated Press wrote that it was "the most significant conservation legislation enacted in nearly half a century."

Winter Aerial Monitoring Program

BY TRACY MORGAN, SCA STAFF SCIENTIST, AND TIM LAYSER, FORMER SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In conjunction with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, SCA conducted two lengthy flights over parts of the advocacy area late last winter. The purpose of the aerial monitoring flight was to detect and document snowmobile use within the Selkirk ecosystem, specifically within designated court ordered snowmobile closure areas and to find and document wildlife tracks and active wildlife use areas within the upper elevations of the southern Selkirk bioregion.

Our volunteer Tim Layser, former Executive Director of SCA and retired Wildlife Biologist on the Priest Lake Ranger District, agreed to do the science for these the flights. The flights covered large swaths of the Priest Lake basin as well as up into Canada. Several important observations came to light. Tracks indicate mountain goat and possible wolverine, snowshoe hare and additional ungulates at high elevation in several locations. Outnumbering wildlife tracks many-fold were tracks from motorized winter recreational vehicles: snowmobiles. Tracks were heavy in allowed areas but abundant tracks were also to be found in snowmobile prohibited areas and within wildlife recovery zones. In particular, riders ventured into areas closed for winter motorized vehicles: Two Mouth Lakes, Two Mouth Creek, Lion Creek, West Fork Cabin, and Trapper/Cow Creek, Grass and Upper Grass Creek/Search Lake and various Canadian closure areas. Many incursions of snowmobiles into closure areas were observed in Canadian drainages.

According to the Center for Biologic Diversity (2020): “There are fewer than 300 wolverines remaining in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Oregon. The animals are (already) severely threatened by climate change, which reduces the spring snowpack they need for denning, and habitat loss caused by snowmobiles, roads and other development. Wolverines depend on areas with deep snow through late spring.

American wolverine, courtesy Audrey Magoun USFWS FPWC

Pregnant females dig their dens into this snowpack to birth and raise their young. Snowpack is already in decline in the western mountains, a trend that is predicted to worsen with a warming climate.” In short, snowmobiling and wolverine life cycles do not mix.

Mountain goat are adversely impacted by snowmobiling due to their sensitivity to loud noises (Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; 2008). In early spring and late winter, the ungulates are very vulnerable, having depleted their fat reserves, they retreat to higher rocky elevations where wind exposes vegetation. This study found the snowmobiling sport of doing a ‘high-mark’ [climb snow-covered mountainsides] was intruding into these highly sensitive habitats. Both snowmobile tracks and goat tracks could be found at a number of sites.

Flight on March 2020 over Bunchgrass Meadows and snowmobile tracks. Courtesy Tim Layser

Snowshoe hare tracks were also observed during the flights. This species is well documented as a food source for Canadian Lynx and while no lynx tracks were observed, the presence of hares are an indicator of lynx habitat. Unfortunately, snowmobile tracks also coincided with the hare footprint siting. Studies show “Indirect negative effects of roads on lynx such as… snowmobile traffic, and competition with other predators that favor road systems may pose a serious threat to lynx” and as stated in Washington Department of Natural Resources Lynx Habitat Management Plan (2006), “Competitive predators that are normally excluded from deep snow habitats where lynx occur can access lynx habitat via compacted snow routes.” Again, snowmobile intrusion into prohibited areas are a hazard to the survival of an already marginalized species, the Canadian Lynx.

Snowmobile tracks were also found near Bunchgrass Meadows. This is of import due to the court ordered closure of the adjacent meadow to all snowmobiling in order to preserve caribou habitat. The illegal activity found here directly influences the survival or extinction of this species in the United States.

The most striking observation was the notable overall reduced indications of wildlife. SCA monitoring flights have spanned decades. To see the diminishing number and kinds of species continue to dwindle in this beloved basin is something which residents need to consider very carefully. Management plans created to balance recreation and wildlife have taken decades and costs millions; only to be made useless by the few who disregard closure boundaries.

Green Economics and the SCA

BY JON MILLER, SCA BOARD MEMBER

I was in my eighth year of teaching at the University of Utah in 1985. I had been granted tenure in 1984, which gave me the academic protection to fight the continuation of the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project (CUP), a massive Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) project designed to transfer water from the south slope of the Uinta Mountains to Utah's rapidly growing Wasatch Front. Economists had long been involved in opposition to Western water projects.

I was young and idealistic, and, as some of my colleagues in the Economics Department were fond of saying, prone to "rising in righteous indignation." I had just recovered from a razor-thin political defeat as an adviser and speechwriter in a Utah congressional campaign. I was bitter from the loss and still looking for a fight.

I then met a wonderful woman named Dorothy Harvey, literally "a little old lady in tennis shoes," who thought it her Christian duty to protect in-stream flows. She thought the CUP was wrong, on moral grounds. I remembered that Jesus fished with nets, not a fly rod, so my focus was more on the CUP as an economic debacle. Together, Dorothy and I formed Intermountain Water Alliance to fight the renewal of the CUP repayment contract, which was coming up for a vote.

Local interests, taxpayers and municipal water users, had to reimburse the BuRec for a fraction of the costs of the project. The project was so bad from an economic standpoint that even BuRec was having trouble getting their benefit-cost analysis to pencil out in favor of the project. Using methods that I outlined in my Fall 2019 Sightlines article, I was fighting them on their own turf, with standard economic analysis, while Dorothy urged Utahns to conserve water and change their antiquated values. We received 28% of the vote, a total many Utahns thought was a tremendous success, given the obstacles we faced.

By then I was burnt out and needed a break. Luckily, I was due for a sabbatical. Having been influenced greatly by Dorothy and her very green approach to issues, I began to study green politics, especially how it was playing out in West Germany. The Greens had just cleared the 5% vote hurdle to gain seats in the German parliament. While always evolving, green politics was reasonably developed at the time, but a green economics was much less so.

Should we follow green economics or standard economics in our Priest Lake advocacy? How do we manage the tension that this question implies?

In January of the coldest winter in Europe in many years, Solveig and I took our daughter out of the second half of the first grade and headed to Germany, to use as a base to hang out for six or seven months, search for the theoretical foundations of green economics, and, truth told, attempt to drown my recent political and economic sorrows in German pilsner.

Green Politics

While "Two Greens, two opinions" remains an apt description of green politics, and open-mic sessions at green gatherings never lack participants, an outline of green politics is reasonably straightforward. I found that German Greens adhered to four principles, the "Four Pillars:" Ecology, Social Justice, Grassroots Democracy, and Non-violence.

Wanting to place their own stamp on green politics, the U.S. Greens added some corollaries and expanded the list to Ten Key Values: Ecological Wisdom, Social Justice, Grassroots Democracy, Non-Violence, Decentralization, Community-based Economics, Post-patriarchal Values, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, and Future Focus.

An economics based on these principles is a radical departure from standard economics. Let me highlight a few differences, and then suggest that a tension between standard vs. green approaches to Priest Lake issues exists in the SCA today.

Approaches to the Basic Economic Problem

At the most fundamental level, green economics differs from standard economics in its view of what steady-state economist Herman Daly called the ends-means spectrum. Standard economics views the basic economic problem as a conflict between wants and resources, the problem of scarcity. We must choose which wants to satisfy, which gives rise to opportunities foregone, or cost. But more important for our discussion here, in the standard view, economic well-being is increased by satisfying more wants with more resources.

In standard economics, we can't question the validity of these wants. By contrast, green economics addresses the basic economic problem by scaling back wants to live within the ecological limits of the earth. Wants which overly stress these limits are bad; actions showing "ecological wisdom" are good. Voluntary simplicity, conspicuous frugality, and sustainability are valued pursuits. The long run has special significance in green economics. In standard economics, the future is discounted. Green economics allows for questioning of values and seeking change in values as a tool of economic policy. A standard economist would never say one should reduce one's "carbon footprint," xeriscape to conserve water, and limit

motorized recreation. A green economist could.

Views on the Economic Process

In green economics, the economic process is linear, not circular. Where standard economics emphasizes the "circular flow" of consumption and production, coordinated by markets, green economists focus on the biophysical underpinnings of the economic system, the natural environment, as a source of material and psychic flows and as a sink for the disposal of waste. The implied perpetual motion of the standard textbook circular flow model is replaced in green economics by a model representing a linear flow through the economic system and a qualitative change from low to high entropy. Gross Domestic Product is not a measure of economic well-being, but rather a cost defined as material throughput.

Green Economic Analysis

Where standard economics would rely on a form of benefit – cost analysis as the foundation of policy analysis, green economics would base analysis on the Four Pillars or the Ten Key Values. These social choice criteria would suggest an action is good if

1. its continuation for a long time makes sense,
2. it has a low impact on the renewable service flows of natural environments,
3. it reduces the use of non-renewable resources, and
4. it fosters human development.

Decentralization and Green Economics

Aligned with the pillar of grassroots democracy, decentralization is a goal of green politics. In green economics, decentralization is a common characteristic of a desirable economy, associated with appropriate (usually smaller) scale, reluctance to trade over long distances, a focus on natural regions, community centeredness, and a sense of place.

Standard Economics, Green Economics, and the SCA

The contrast between standard and green economics is mirrored in alternative approaches to Selkirk/Priest Lake issues held by members of the SCA board and the general membership. And in these alternative approaches lies a tension. At its heart, SCA is a green organization, with a focus on preserving the Priest Lake environment for future generations.

In its vision statement, SCA seeks to protect "all living beings" (*see page 2 of this issue for full statement*). in the region, not just human beings. Its advocacy for the caribou and grizzly bear is one example. Its dogged pursuit of Priest Lake water quality is another. But the SCA vision statement also pledges faithful advocacy "to all who live, love and benefit from Priest Lake and its surroundings."

At every SCA board meeting we have an agenda item on "building bridges." This is an attempt to broaden our support in the community by reaching out, through science and education, to those who might not be part of our natural constituency, to demonstrate that we are not against logging, per se, but against logging inappropriately close to a stream bed.

Does this advocacy extend with as much vigor to those who earn their livelihoods from logging, snowmobiling, motorized water and road-based recreation, and construction of lakeside properties? Is the SCA, as suggested to me by a neighbor, anti-logging? Is SCA against further economic development? Are we against roads? At my first board meeting I asked if there was a road we didn't object to? One colleague answered, "Yes, I-90."
How do we do this advocacy mentioned in our vision statement? Do we condemn behaviors, as did my beloved Dorothy, on moral grounds? Or do we show with standard economic methods that activities that threaten water quality, also threaten economic livelihoods around the lake? This is a continuing debate within the organization, and, as a green organization, this grassroots debate is healthy.

At every SCA board meeting we have an agenda item on "building bridges." This is an attempt to broaden our support in the community by reaching out, through science and education, to those who might not be part of our natural constituency, to demonstrate that we are not against logging, per se, but against logging inappropriately close to a stream bed. We are not against snowmobiling, per se, but we want snowmobilers to consider animal winter habitats. We are not obstructionist, but we will fight bad development, using both standard and green approaches.

Should we follow green economics or standard economics in our Priest Lake advocacy? How do we manage the tension that this question implies? I don't have an answer. Maybe you do. Please let us know your views.

Some days I want to lob a grenade into a boat speeding up the Thorofare. On others, I'd like to do a standard economics study that might show the relationship between diminished water quality and lower lakeside property values. Yes, I, too, live the tension. But I do know that we must continue the discussion of contrasting approaches in pursuit of effective ways to preserve and protect this place we all love so much.

Update: Issues Committee Update

BY JAMES LEA, SCA BOARD MEMBER, ISSUES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Updates on three of the most important issues SCA has been dealing with over the last several months.

Bog Creek

As a reminder, the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) wants to reopen a washed out overgrown road near the Canadian Border so that the CBP can drive a truck all the way from Metaline Falls to the Kootenai River to respond to potential incidents on our threatened northern border. Apart from the fact that this is right in the center

of the grizzly bear recovery zone and an area where poaching was regularly observed previously, CBP wants to open the road so that they can drive the occasional truck or snow mobile along this route.

The Center for Biological Diversity, Idaho Conservation League, Lands Council and Wildlife Guardians have joined SCA in requesting an action by a federal judge in Missoula to issue an injunction to have the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) reconsider. The hearing will be held in late 2020 or early next year. In late October, SCA wrote a declaratory letter to establish legal standing in the case. SCA is the one organization that can clearly establish legal standing because the area in question is in the Southern Selkirks and also partly in the Priest River watershed.

Hopefully, we will have a favorable judgement soon.

319 Grant review

In July, SCA submitted a grant proposal to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) to fund the placement of test wells near the Kalispell Bay Sewer District to monitor for phosphorus entering into the ground water where it would have access to the lake. Priest Lake waters limit aquatic vegetation growth because of a relative absence of phosphorus. This is why the lake water is - or used to be - so clear. The funds are from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and in Idaho are administered by IDEQ. Dr. Jan Boll and his graduate student Galen Kornowske received a grant from SCA two years ago to study this issue. Their results demonstrated significant quantities of phosphorus in ground water in the southern section of the bay with the findings of caffeine and occasional warfarin (active ingredient of rat poison). The latter are two clear markers of anthropogenic influence. Phosphorus from the sewage treatment facility seems a likely source. The logical next step is to place a test well immediately upgradient of the treatment site and two downgradient. We presented this information to the Panhandle Basin Advisory Group and IDEQ on October 22, 2020. It was well received but this is a competitive endeavor and we may or may not get funding. We will find out in December. In the meantime, at a minimum, this important information has been disseminated to IDEQ and the larger community. Recognition of this potential phosphorus pollution may have ramifications for all of Priest Lake and also Lake Pend Oreille. Mr. Bob Steed, Surface Water Manager for IDEQ, also intends to study the aquatic vegetation issue as a limnological problem. What we are observing with the aquatic vegetation increase likely is multifactorial. After many years of dealing with this nuisance problem we on Kalispell Bay are finally getting some attention.

East side stream monitoring

Last summer SCA received a grant from the Priest Lake Cabin Owners Association to monitor nutrients, water temperature and pH in seven east side streams from Caribou Creek in the north to Soldier Creek in the south. SCA took measurements on two occasions and submitted the samples to Tshimikain Creek Labs in Spokane (owned by the Spokane Tribe). The most significant finding was elevated phosphorus in Cougar Creek, a tributary to Cavanaugh Bay. The cause of this is not clear although we are suspicious it may relate to road building for logging purposes. SCA presented this information to IDEQ on October 21, 2020 and the IDEQ Surface Water Program specialists, Bob Steed and Kristin Lowell, have committed to investigate this further.

SCA feels that we have established a genuinely positive working relationship with IDEQ at this point and wish to expand that relationship by placing small temperature monitors in the streams throughout the east side. These tiny monitors can measure water temperature every minute for years at a time. Many of the east side streams are habitat for endangered bull trout and are threatened by increased water temperature. With the planned increases in logging by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), SCA is concerned that things may get worse. If we are not there to monitor for water temperature and nutrient contamination, no one else will. SCA has been the squeaky wheel that is putting Priest Lake back on the IDEQ radar.

Bonner County Proposes to Change the Shoreline Protection Code

As reported in the October 22, 2020 edition of the Bonner County Daily Bee newspaper, Bonner County's 40-foot waterfront setback standard - an important buffer zone for protecting water quality - could be changing.

At present, landowners are technically not allowed to put structures within the buffer zone, although they can seek variances from the design standard. Bonner County planner, Jason Johnson, stated that "As far as any specific distance goes, we're not thinking of any distance at this point," but the stated purpose of this update to the shoreline codes is to address present and future development challenges along Bonner County's lakes, ponds and waterways.

This process will involve the normal noticing and comment periods that apply to any Bonner County comprehensive plan amendment and they are hoping to receive feedback to the following questions and topics:

1. What goals should a new shoreline code for Bonner County try to achieve?
2. Are there examples of other codes in other areas or jurisdictions that seem to achieve these goals?
3. What uses should be allowed in shorelines? What uses should not be allowed in shorelines? Why or why not?
3. Where should these uses be allowed? Where should these uses not be allowed? Why or why not?
4. Are there examples of other codes in other areas or jurisdictions that seem to implement and allow these uses appropriately?
5. What scientifically valid sources or studies could underpin a new shoreline code for Bonner County and inform its content?
6. What sorts of tracking/inventory/statistics currently exist about Bonner County waterways that could help inform this process? How can these be accessed? Can these be submitted to the department for review, or are these accessible by Bonner County Planning?

Bonner County is seeking input with written citations, including studies and scientific sources with implementable recommendations, model codes, existing codes from other jurisdictions, case studies, current statistical and inventory data on Bonner County waterways, etc. Their goal is to finish the basic inventory stage, and get some initial answers to these questions, by the end of November.

SCA members and others are encouraged to let the Bonner County Commissioners know your concerns about protecting water quality and maintaining the current shoreline code at Priest Lake and all waters in Bonner County.

Contact information for sharing your comments and input:
Jason Johnson, Floodplain Manager/Planner
Bonner County Planning Department
Phone: (208)265-1458
1500 Hwy 2, Ste. 208
Sandpoint, ID 83864
www.bonnercountyid.gov

Harvesting the Thorofare and Beyond

BY TRACY MORGAN, SCA STAFF SCIENTIST

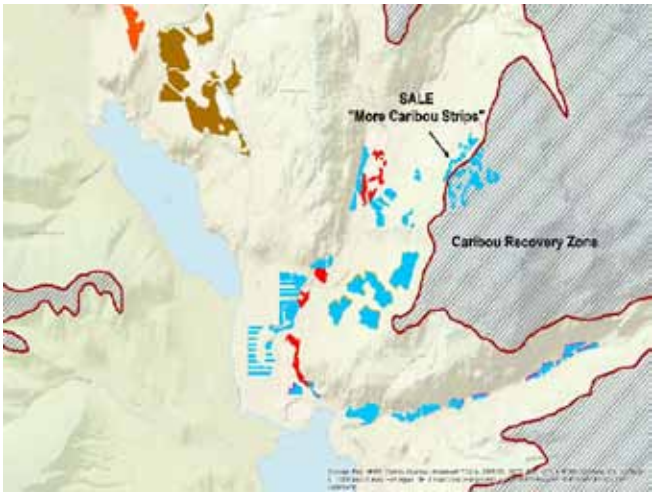
The beloved Thorofare, a place of serenity, stillness, wildness and beauty. It really is beyond description. And now we need to add a place of clear cutting!

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is very busy these days. Harvests, and clear cutting, include logging in the Woodland Caribou recovery zone.

Some of these sales are for pulp and include Subalpine Fir harvests, known to be on the edge of survival considering climate change modelling. If models are correct, Western Red Cedar, Hemlock and Subalpine Fir will face stressors under the new conditions; even slight changes in rain fall patterns and snowfall will change the forest succession.

Are we willing to sacrifice a forest thousands of years in the making for a short-term economic benefit to create wood pulp? SCA wants everyone to know about these increased timber and pulp harvests near the Thorofare.

With your support as well as awareness of these activities, SCA will be tracking and monitoring these IDL activities closely.



Priest River Water Temperature Study by USGS and Kalispel Tribe of Indians

BY JON QUINN-HURST, SCA BOARD MEMBER, FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

In the summers of 2018 and 2019 the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Kalispel Tribe of Indians Natural Resources Department conducted an extensive study of the lower Priest River from Outlet Dam to the confluence with the Pend Oreille River. In August of both years, in addition to having stationary water temperature data loggers, a one day water temperature study was conducted of the entire lower Priest River.

The goal was to determine how water temperature varies in the lower Priest River over space and time. Data loggers were set every 2km (1.2 miles) from near the Outlet Dam to near the confluence with the Pend Oreille River.

The loggers collected reading every hour from June to September to see how river water temperature fluctuated during the summer months. In addition, river water temperature was measured on one day in August with the help of ten teams of volunteers from Trout Unlimited and the Idaho Master Naturalists.

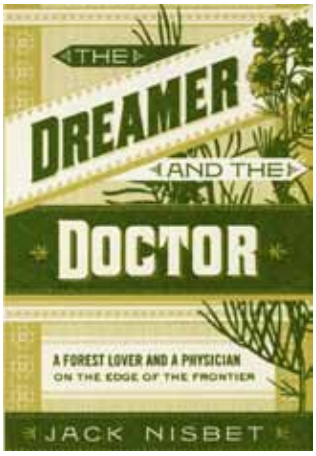
The teams were outfitted with GPS and floated the river while towing a water temperature logger along the river bottom behind them. The logger collected water temperature readings every ten seconds and GPS coordinates every second.

The release of the final report and analysis will be in the late fall of 2020 (after Sightlines press time!). The preliminary data shows that the river generally cools as you travel downstream from Outlet Dam, with a lot of variation of water temperature. The variation may be due to mixing from tributaries that feed into the river as well as springs and seeps.

The results will be helpful to develop a plan to restore habitat for whitefish and trout. The Priest River is part of the Kalispel Tribe of Indians aboriginal lands and these fish were once a major food source. These fish rely on cold water refuges for survival, thus the focus on river water temperature in this study.

Book Review
The Dreamer and the Doctor: A Forest Lover and a Physician on the Edge of the Frontier

REVIEW BY ELEANOR HUNGATE JONES, SCA BOARD MEMBER, VICE PRESIDENT



It seems to me that when a book comes to an end and you wish it wouldn't, it's a book to tell others about. As I turned the last page of The Dreamer and the Doctor, by Jack Nisbet, (Sasquatch Books, 2018) I knew I wanted to share this part-history, part-love, part-adventure tale that also reflects environmental topics we're dealing with today. While mostly set in the Territory of Idaho in the late 1880s onward, dear to my heart is the gorgeous description of the geography, flora and fauna of northern Idaho.

Swedish immigrant and self-taught naturalist John Leiberg was first interested in making a fortune as a pick-ax prospector. His wife Carrie was a physician and came into the marriage with a son. A homesteading life at the southern end of Lake Pend Oreille wasn't easy during those early years and a series of incidents led John to become a special field agent for the US Forest Commission.

Carrie had earned a medical degree and was certified to practice. Late in 1889 she opened an office in Post Falls. Her experiences there, and later as a physician with the Northern Pacific Railway, forged her lifelong concern and fight for public healthcare. She also became an owner of an early self-held camera.

Cameras play a role in this unique story. John started using a camera to document change in the forest area. One of his early projects was photographing timber stands and documenting conditions, including photos of burned areas. These were sent to the US Department of the Interior that then requested larger landscapes to provide context. The photos lead to John being transferred to the Interior Department and his first assignment—a month-long assessment of the proposed Priest River Reserve. The result of this mission: a landmark 1898 survey of Priest Lake.

Let me end my review here with hopes that what I've written will entice you to finish this story—an adventure tale bursting with descriptions of flora and fauna, and its name places reflective of early pioneers, the story sets a stage for the roots of land ownership and usage… and reflects some on-going 20th century environmental issues.

Happy reading!

Community Destruction during Extreme Wildfires is a Home Ignition Problem

SUBMITTED BY SCA MEMBER BARRY ROSENBERG;
REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION BY WILDFIRE TODAY (9/21/20) BY JACK COHEN AND DAVE STROHMAIER

We must abandon our expectation that we can suppress 100% of wildfires and reject the false narrative that community protection requires wildfire control. Community wildfire disasters have only occurred during extreme conditions when high wind speed, low relative humidity, and flammable vegetation result in high fire intensities, rapid fire growth rates, and showers of burning embers (firebrands) starting new fires. Fire agencies primarily use wildfire suppression tactics for protecting communities from wildfires. But as we see from current extreme wildfire conditions in California, Oregon, and Washington, fire suppression can quickly become overwhelmed and ineffective.

Wildfires, and thus extreme wildfires, are inevitable. Does that mean wildland-urban (WU) fire disasters are inevitable as well? Absolutely not! WU fire research has shown that homeowners can create ignition resistant homes to prevent community wildfire disasters. How can that be possible?

Recall the destruction in Paradise, CA, during the extreme 2018 Camp Fire. Most of the totally destroyed homes in Paradise were surrounded by unconsumed tree canopies. Although many journalists and public officials believe this outcome was unusual, the pattern of unconsumed vegetation adjacent to and surrounding total home destruction is typical of WU fire disasters. In 2020 we see the same patterns of home destruction and adjacent unconsumed vegetation in photos from Malden, WA, and Phoenix, Talent, Blue River, and Mill City OR. Home destruction with adjacent unconsumed shrub and tree vegetation indicates the following:

- High intensity wildfire does not continuously spread through a residential area as a tsunami or flood of flame.
- Unconsumed shrub and tree canopies adjacent to homes do not produce high intensity flames that ignite the homes; ignitions can only be from burning embers and low intensity surface fires.
- The “big flames” of high intensity wildfires are not causing total home destruction.

Surprisingly, research has shown that home ignitions during extreme wildfires result from conditions local to a home. A home’s ignition vulnerabilities in relation to nearby burning materials within 100 feet principally determine home ignitions. This area of a home and its immediate surroundings is called the home ignition zone (HIZ). Typically, lofted burning embers initiate ignitions within the HIZ – to homes directly and nearby flammables leading to homes.

Although an intense wildfire can loft firebrands more than one-half mile to start fires, the minuscule local conditions where the burning embers land and accumulate determine ignitions. Importantly, most home destruction during extreme wildfires occurs hours after the wildfire has ceased intense burning near the community; the residential fuels – homes, other structures, and vegetation – continue fire spread within the community.

Uncontrollable extreme wildfires are inevitable; however, by reducing home ignition potential within the HIZ we can create ignition resistant homes and communities. Thus, community wildfire risk should be defined as a home ignition problem, not a wildfire control problem. Unfortunately, protecting communities from wildfire by reducing home ignition potential runs counter to established orthodoxy.

There are good reasons to do “fuel treatments” for ecological and commercial objectives. But the greatest fuel treatment effect on wildfire behavior is within the fuel treatment area; fuel treatments do not stop extreme wildfires. So let’s call a spade a spade and not pretend that many, or even most fuel treatment projects actually reduce home ignition potential during extreme wildfires. Because local conditions determine home ignitions, the most effective “fuel treatment” addressing community wildfire risk reduces home ignition potential within HIZs and the community. Wildfires, exacerbated by climate change, will occur.

Community destruction during extreme wildfires will continue as long as wildfire suppression remains the primary approach for community protection. Conducting the same ineffective strategy and tactics expecting different results will continue to be a recipe for disaster when it comes to protecting homes from extreme wildfire.

To make this shift, land managers, elected officials, and members of the public must question some of our most deeply ingrained assumptions regarding fire. For the sake of fiscal responsibility, scientific integrity, and effective outcomes, it’s high time we abandon the tired and disingenuous policies of our century-old all-out war on wildfire and fuel treatments conducted under the guise of protecting communities. Instead, let’s focus on mitigating WU fire risk where ignitions are determined – within the home ignition zone.

Climate and the Priest Lake Basin

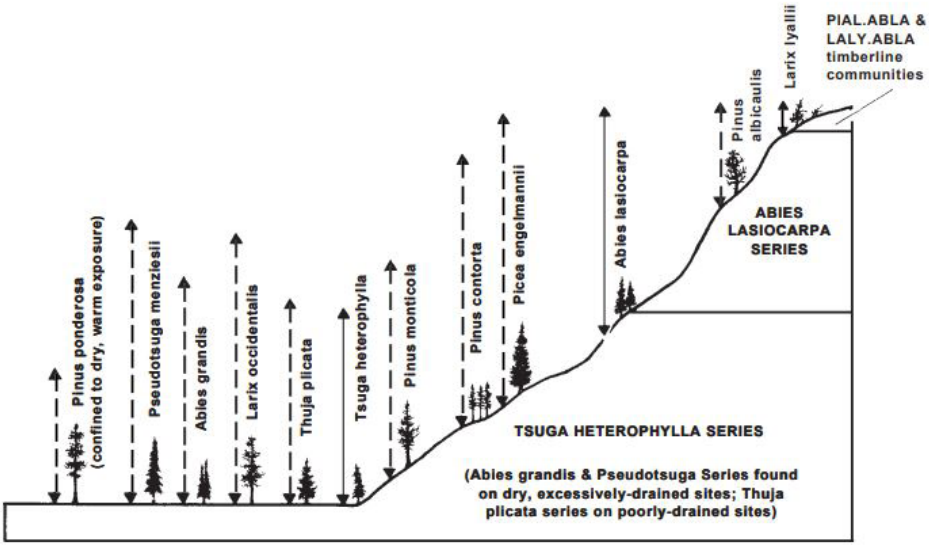
BY TRACY MORGAN, SCA STAFF SCIENTIST

Most of us are aware that our climate is rapidly changing. Through a grant with the Charlotte Martin Foundation, Selkirk Conservation Alliance received funding to see just how our world would be impacted by a warmer planet. The answer is not simple… There are numerous extensive and excellent studies on the projected climate setting for the inland northwest. Federal, state, and independent institutions have all looked at what the region may face in the future. Many of the studies agree, in general, that the inland northwest will experience warmer and possibly wetter weather. Another factor is variability. For instance, rain may dominate one year or it may come sooner or later. These subtle shifts in long term weather patterns will likely impact the forest in the Priest Lake Basin.

Knowing the overall potential trend in change, ecologists around the globe agree that plant communities found at lower elevations will 'migrate' to higher elevations[1],[2]. Through time, plant suites and the animals associated with them will also 'move' northward. For example, species needing cool winters will die off in lower latitudes soon only to be found closer to the poles. We have seen this 'migration' in plant zone maps for the US which are now having garden plants once only found in the south. Alpine and subalpine habitats are now threatened for both the trees and the animals. [3] Subalpine Fir, Whitebark Pine, Subalpine Larch, Engelmann Spruce, Lodgepole Pine and Western Red Cedar may not flourish in a wetter and warmer climate especially if change is rapid.

Generalized Distribution of Tree Species, North Idaho[4]

How does this relate to our basin?



For our location, snowpack is of great importance and so these predictions are not good news. Snowpack will instead be in the form of rain and have earlier snowmelts as well as different types of snow.[5] We all know there are some pretty special plants and animals in the area, many of which need cold or snowy environs during denning, foraging, or hunting behaviors in the lifespan of the species. And snow needs to be across miles of landscape for travel and protection. Wolverine, lynx, woodland caribou, grizzly bear and others depend on a distinct winter (see Aerial Survey article). You may be one of these snow-loving creatures!

Can we do anything about this? Our investigation looked at potential corridors as part of the solution, pathways for wildlife to travel from haven to haven, and therefore potential areas for conservation. Some models even show specific areas that will have the most change or highest rate of change in the next 10 or 40 years. The data also show stable areas which will be important 'islands' for both tree and wildlife diversity and retention in the face of these changes. Areas such as the Thorofare can act as corridors for wildlife travelling from the two sides of mountain ranges surrounding the lake. This also bridges habitat for wildlife needing large ranges, from Canada to Montana, to thrive such as wolverine and lynx. Biodiversity is the foundation for resiliency[6]. There is hope for retaining species in the face of climate change by encouraging conservation efforts.

Studies show that forest harvest practices can actually impact the length of time snow stays on the ground.[7],[8] We can limit the harvest of the tree species most at risk and reduce fragmentation of healthy stands in particular at higher altitudes. Mapping the alpine and subalpine zone for our mountain tops as well as protecting the 'cold refugia' riparian zones would be important in this work.

Creating 'climate change refugia' such as corridors and increasing old growth can help retain low resiliency species[9] Contiguous canopy is key[10] and growth forests help stabilize climate change – in particular - if a large enough area is kept healthy and intact[11]. Old growth stands buffer climate extremes as well. These stands are also protected by regulation. Some argue planting drought tolerant species will address the change in temperature regime[12] while other state this only hastens the loss of the rainforest ecotype we now have.[13] Two hundred scientists addressed the US Congress arguing against managing forest toward drought tolerant species[14]. Rather than cultivating drought tolerant species, the current forest composition is likely the safest approach for mitigat-

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Looking Back: A Winter Adventure in the Selkirks

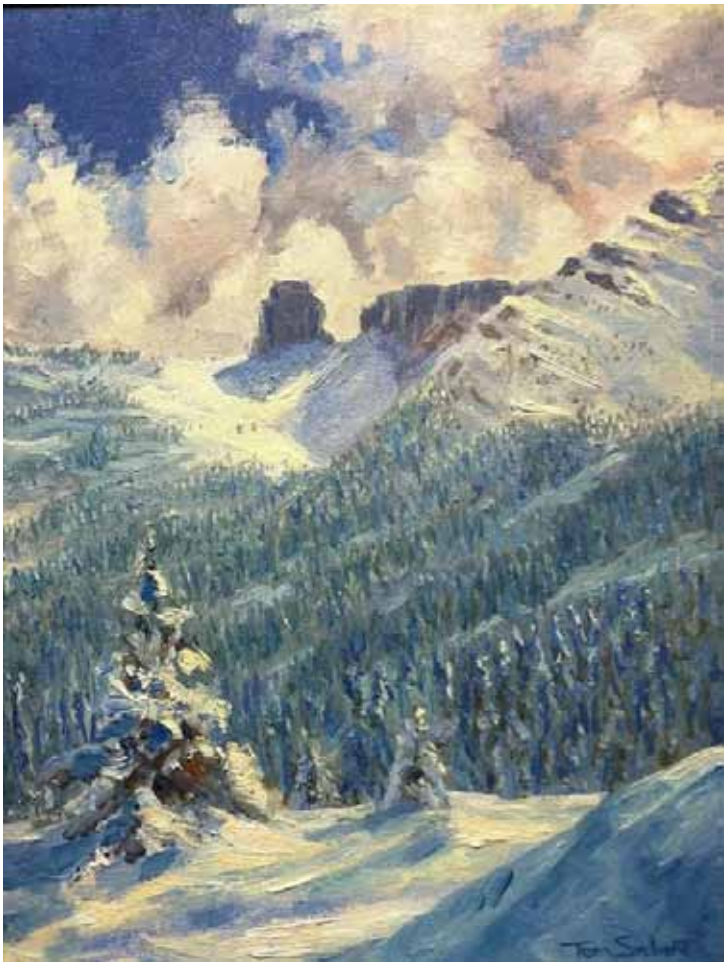
BY JON QUINN-HURST, SCA BOARD MEMBER, FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

In the winter of 1973 four college students attempted a winter ascent of Chimney Rock. It was Christmas Break when Phil Boyer, Mark Guthrie, Gordon Beeman (all WSU) and Jon Quinn-Hurst (UW) departed the East Shore on snowshoes via the original Horton Ridge Road. The goal: for Mark and Phil to summit Chimney Rock in winter by the west face direct route, with Gordon and Jon as 'sherpas' for the winter attempt's gear and food.

A cold high-pressure system was predicted for several days which was encouraging. The snowpack was early that year, and a foot of fresh powder snow on top of a three foot base was encountered on the approach. We broke trail with heavy packs from the East Shore Road to Chimney Rock. Thanks to Phil and Mark the crew was able to negotiate a substantial cornice on the north side of Mt. Roothaan safely. It took two and one half days to get to the base of Chimney Rock where a base camp with a snow cave was established.

Mark and Phil labored for four days in very cold weather on the west face direct route. Due to the layers of ice and hoar frost on the west side the progress was slow and required the use of direct aid. They came within 40 feet of the summit. Their efforts were shortened by a substantial storm that forced our crew to make a hasty retreat west down the upper Indian Creek drainage to avoid the increased avalanche danger on the approach route over Mt. Roothaan. We worked our way through the fresh deep snow back to the saddle where the Horton Ridge Road switchbacks up to the site of the now long gone Horton Ridge Lookout. There, we encountered snowmobilers enjoying a large fire on the trail we had packed out days earlier. It took one long day to get back to the East Shore Road thanks to the firm snowmachine tracks.

Vivid memories exist from this experience: cold crystal-clear days, a cozy snow cave, the howling storm that hastened our return and, most of all, the comradeship in a shared adventure.



Chimney Rock. Priest Lake art print by Tom Siebert.

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ing climate change. Foresters can best mitigate by adapting specific forest practices by retaining snowpack and increasing overall water yield. These practices also are the most valid way to protect watersheds.

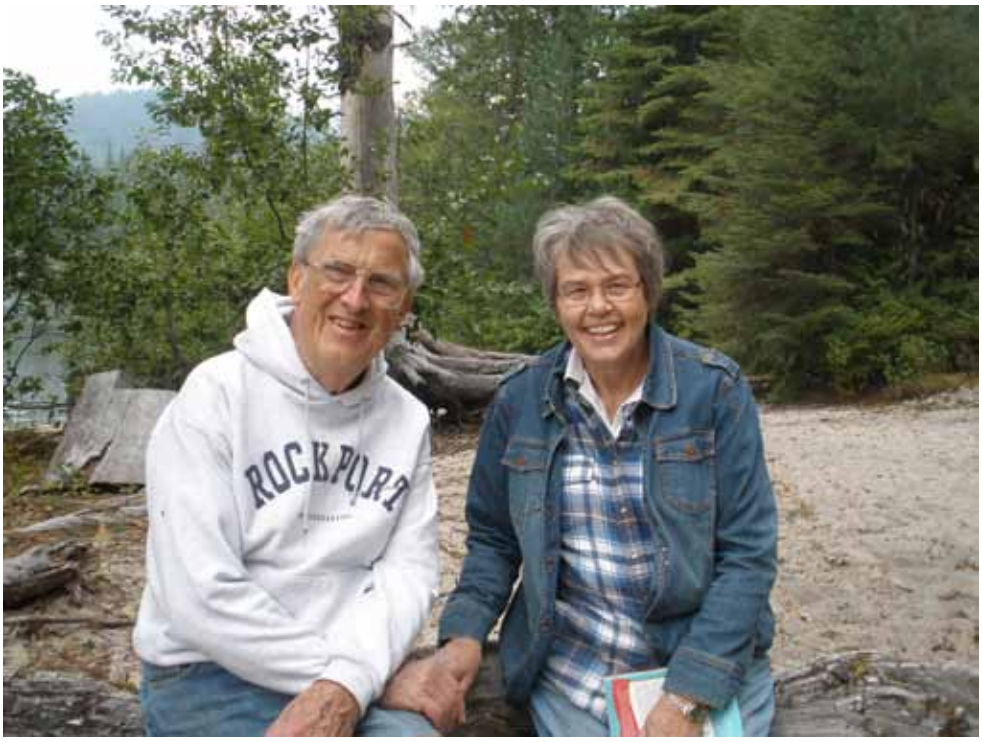
Carefully managing our forests is within our reach. While it may not drastically change the 'big picture,' we may have the option to strongly retain the character and diversity of species in the basin and the beauty we all enjoy.

Endnotes

1 Warming climate is changing the alpine vegetation of the lofty Himalayas, researchmatters.in/news/warming-climate-changing-alpine-vegetation-lofty-himalayas
2 Climate change disrupts local adaptation and favors upslope migration, onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ele.13427
3 Predicting the effects of future climate change on the subalpine and alpine meadows of Pacific Northwest Mountains, www.nps.gov/articles/predicting-climate-change.htm
4 Forest Habitat Types of Northern Idaho: A Second Approximation www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_int/int_gtr236.pdf
5 The Washington Climate Change Impacts Assessment
6 Building resilience for adaptation to climate change through sustainable forest management, http://www.fao.org/3/i3084e/i3084e09.pdf
7 Net radiation in a snow-covered discontinuous forest gap for a range of gap sizes and topographic configurations, agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/2014JD021809
8 Boreal Forest, www.climate-policy-watcher.org/snow/boreal-forest.html
9 Final South Selkirk Caribou Management Plan, http://www.restoringthekootenai.org/resources/2019-02_Final_South_Selkirk_Caribou_Management_Plan_Compressed.pdf
10 Boreal Forest
11 Forests and Climate Change
12 Drought and Climate Change www.c2es.org/content/drought-and-climate-change/
13 Forests and Climate Change, www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs/forests-and-climate-change
14 Letter to Congress on Climate adaptive forest practices johnmuirproject.org/2020/05/breaking-news-over-200-top-u-s-climate-and-forest-scientists-urge-congress-protect-forests-to-mitigate-climate-crisis/

Profile: SCA Members John & Lydia Hungate Members for 22 Years, and Counting!

BY ELEANOR HUNGATE JONES, SCA BOARD MEMBER, VICE PRESIDENT



A membership in a non-profit organization indicates a commitment. SCA is honored to have members who reflect their desire to preserve the integrity and beauty of life in the Selkirks. Our membership list has ebbed and flowed over the course of 33 years, with new names added and familiar names retained—all with gratitude. We are pleased to add this SCA Member Profile feature to our *Sightlines* newsletter. For our inaugural profile, we introduce you to John and Lydia Hungate—SCA members since 1998.

John's earliest memories of Priest Lake are as a young boy in the 1930s, playing on the Canoe Point beach every summer with his extended family. His grandparents' log cabin had been there since the 1920s and until the mid-80s, the cabin hosted as many as 25 family members around the long dining room table.

It was to this cabin that he brought his new wife, Lydia, more than 60 years ago. The love they share for Priest Lake was born so many years ago.

John, a 40+ year Boeing employee and Lydia, an at-home manager and candy maker at Fran's Chocolates for 20 years, together spent at least a part of each summer with their three children enjoying and exploring the Selkirks.

They are a wonderful source of information on area hiking trails, changes around the lake, stories of ol'timers, and huckleberry picking but —as expected — keeping their patches to family info only!

Lydia and John now enjoy their home on Mosquito Bay from early spring to late fall each year with intermittent winter visits. They both agree that their 22 year commitment (and counting!) to being members of SCA reflects their "desire to protect this environment that they love and to protect it for the generations to come."

Supporting an organization committed to the same mission and vision is an easy decision. Thank you, John and Lydia. And, here's to many more memory-making times!

SCA Member Letter

We are new members at the invitation of one of your Board members, Curt Wickre. Curt and Nancy are neighbors of ours in Diamond Park on the East side. We received our first newsletter in the mail yesterday and are impressed by the quality of it - paper and print - as well as the breadth and quality of the articles.

I would like to respond to the article written by Jon Miller titled Economics and the Priest Lake Environment. Is there a way to respond to his article or others in a letter to the Editor or the like? In particular I would like to acknowledge the article for its plain language and clarity. Jon uses the phrase "human welfare" several times throughout the article. It would be very helpful, it seems, to define what that phrase means somewhere in a future article - this suggests that I hope Jon follows this up with further articles on the subject of environment economics.

Clearly, so many of the terms we have grown up with are wrapped in cultural, social and other frames that defined (limited?) our use and understanding of them at the time. Now it is "global" everything which doesn't necessarily mean the "planet" but suggests a broader perspective to things that we used to know (believe?) as narrower, limited to our immediate circles, and closer to home. Concepts like "existence value" and "option value" require the reader to "stretch" our narrow point-of-view "pathways" to larger/higher/more inclusive/longer/sustainable perspectives.

We hope that Jon and others continue this theme in future articles. The change from narrow to broad won't happen quickly or easily - rather, change in perspective is managed by clear and persistent repeating words/phrases/suggested responses, etc. All the while acknowledge the resistance to change. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Bill and Sandra Dodge, Spokane