



SIGHTLINES

www.scawild.org

Winter 2012-2013

Newsletter of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance

FEATURES

- 2 -FROM THE DIRECTOR
- 4 -BOARD NEWS
-TR AND THE KANIKSU
- 5 -CARIBOU DETERMINATION
-BOARD MEMBER BIO
- 6 -BRIEF SCA SURVEY
-SUMMER LAKE CLEAN UP
- 7 -2013 PROJECT REPORT
-HARWOOD: WE REMEMBER
- 8 -REMOTE CAMERAS,
WILDLIFE SPYING

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

SCA MEMBERSHIP DUES
SUPPORT SCA PROJECTS

FEATURED PHOTO



CARIBOU IN WINTER, SELKIRK REGION
(PHOTO BY STEVE FORREST)

www.scawild.org

phone: 208-448-1110

sca@scawild.org

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

Wildlife Feeding Laws Pass in Washington State—Finally!

BY TIM LAYSER, SCA WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Two new state laws went into effect in June that prohibit — intentionally or otherwise — leaving food or food waste in places where it can attract bears and other wild carnivores. Under a new law, anyone who intentionally feeds or attempts to feed bears and other wild carnivores can be fined up to \$1,000. Another law authorizes a fine of \$87 for those who negligently feed or attempt to feed wildlife.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife says that people can avoid feeding wild animals unintentionally by:

- Securing garbage and compost, particularly when bears have been reported in the area.
- Removing attractants such as bird feeders.
- Keeping pet food and pets inside or otherwise secured.
- Cleaning barbecue grills.



Black bear with access to food waste.

Putting food scraps out for wildlife or leaving garbage cans or pet food exposed is an open invitation for bears or other wildlife to pay you and your neighbors a visit. While black bears rarely attack people in the wild, they can pose a danger to public safety if they become accustomed to humans. This can pres-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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

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

Mark Kabush
Chair

John Abelson

Steve Booth

Randy Curless

Karin Overbeck

Sharon Sorby

Bruce Yocum

SCA Staff

Mark Sprengel
Executive Director

Tim Layser
Wildlife Biologist

Jerry Boggs
Hydropower Biologist

Liz Sedler
Forest Programs Coordinator

Mikki Ravenscroft
Office Manager

Amy Daniels
Highway Program

Kate Drum
Washington Highway Program

Sarah Stoner, Layout
Swordfern Wordsmithing, Ink.
sarah.stoner@earthlink.net

Petroglyph Printing
509-447-2590

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

On November 6th, Election Day, almost 75 percent of Idaho voters approved amending the state constitution (HJR 2) mandating that Idaho citizens' right to hunt, fish and trap must be preserved..."forever." Furthermore, voters decided that hunting, fishing, and trapping should now become the "preferred means of managing wildlife" thus potentially constraining wildlife managers by shifting the emphasis from intelligently managing and protecting habitat to simplistic culling of "unwanted" animals.

"Forever" is a very long time and I suspect that proponents of this measure are overly optimistic in attempting to lasso eternity in pursuit of their agenda. Be that as it may, conflating hunting and fishing with trapping is little more than a cynical attempt to enshrine an activity that, I suspect, far fewer than 1 percent of Idahoans indulge in.

Hunting and fishing of course are not under any threat and their continued pursuit certainly does not require an amendment to the state constitution any more than does the right to have cornflakes for breakfast.

Trapping is another matter. Wholly unnecessary and cruel, a trapped animal, if not killed, can be perma-

Hunting and fishing of course
are not under any threat and
their continued pursuit certainly
does not require an amendment to
the state constitution any more
than does the right to have
cornflakes for breakfast.

Trapping is another matter.

nently maimed, either by the trap or in its efforts to free itself. Also, a trapped animal can become easy prey, unable to escape opportunistic predators. Furthermore, traps don't differentiate between the "target" species and other animals such as dogs, cats, rare or endangered species or animals that are not

of interest to the trapper. Moreover, Idaho is one of only three states which requires trappers check their traps only every 72 hours. (Most states require daily checks.) Unfortunate creatures trapped in Idaho can thus spend up to three days in freezing or inclement weather without food, water or shelter before the trapper arrives to kill or release the unlucky victim.

Bottom line... trapping is a cruel anachronism... a pursuit devoid of empathy for the suffering of other sentient creatures. In this day and age it's little more than a recreational hobby too

often practiced by individuals in juvenile thrall to some kind of Mountain Man fantasy.

Idaho voters failed to realize that it's one thing to respect the past. Another thing entirely to be trapped by it.

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



Photo found on several animal cruelty websites. Original source unknown.

This fall, Idaho voters decided that hunting, fishing, and trapping should now become the "preferred means of managing wildlife."

FEEDING LAWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ent some tough choices for wildlife officers responsible for managing these animals. To relocate a bear that has learned to scavenge people's leftovers results in moving the problem somewhere else, or often the animal has to be destroyed

"Food is involved virtually every time we respond to a call about a bear sighted in a neighborhood," claimed a Wildlife Officer. "The new laws are designed to encourage people to take more responsibility for that

"Food is involved virtually every time we respond to a call about a bear sighted in a neighborhood.

The new laws are designed to encourage people to take more responsibility for that situation, both for their own safety and for the welfare of bears and other wildlife."

situation, both for their own safety and for the welfare of bears and other wildlife."

There are many good reasons not to feed wildlife including:

- When young wild animals are taught to depend on a human-provided food source, they may not fully develop essential foraging skills.
- Wild animals that are used to being fed by humans commonly lose their fear of people.
- The food humans usually feed to wild animals is not nutritionally complete, and it can cause serious health problems for the animals, especially when they are young and still developing.

A constant, human-provided food source may attract many more wild animals to the area than would normally be found there. Reproduction rates may also be affected when an artificial food source is readily available.

Contact Tim Layser at layser@scawild.org

Join the SCA

Support the Selkirk Conservation Alliance with Your Membership!

Our newsletter, funded entirely by member contributions, keeps you informed of natural resources issues within the Inland Northwest, and offers regular updates on the efforts of the SCA to promote environmental excellence. Now is the time to give to the environment that sustains us all.

**Make a contribution and keep SightLines coming regularly.
Dues and donations are tax-deductible.**

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

	Individual	Family
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Limited Income (living lightly)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20



SCA bull trout t-shirt

To help more, I'm enclosing an additional contribution:

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

Include the following SCA merchandise:

- ☐ SCA mug #_____ \$15 each + \$5 shipping/handling
☐ SCA bear t-shirt (kids) #_____ \$12.50 each + \$3 S&H / Size _____
☐ SCA bull trout t-shirt #_____ \$12.50 each + \$3 S&H / Size _____

Name _____

Email _____

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

phone: _____

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

phone _____

SCA mug and kids t-shirt

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

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

Board News: Welcome!

The SCA Board welcomes two new board members, Bruce Yocum and John Abelson.

Bruce Yocum, a previous board member, is the owner of a successful and respected contracting business at Priest Lake and is a knowledgeable environmentalist who has lived in the area most of his life. Bruce has graciously donated the use of his boat for the past few years for SCA's water quality monitoring, which is an ongoing project.

Bruce and his lovely wife Rosemary are in the process of building a new home for themselves in Squaw Valley in order to escape the increasingly urban atmosphere of the lake area. Bruce brings his talent and area expertise to the board and we appreciate his commitment both to SCA and the environment.

John Abelson has held a love of the area since the 1950s when he worked in the blister rust control project while stationed at the Navigation Campground on Upper Priest Lake.

John and his wife Christine Guthrie have a home at the lake and are members of the Beaver Creek Community Association. John is an internationally-known bio-chemist who has received many academic honors and is a member of the National Academy of Science. John and Christine, who is a noted RNA biochemist and geneticist, are members of the faculty at the University of California at San Francisco. John's presence on the SCA board is gratefully welcomed.

John's modest reply to our request for a brief bio appears on the facing page—page 5—in this issue of *Sightlines*.

Thanks to both Bruce and John for their dedication to preserving the area that we all are devoted to.

T.R. and the Kaniksu

BY STEVE BOOTH, SCA BOARD MEMBER

Unless you've studied Theodore Roosevelt's contributions to the conservation of our natural resources in this country, you could not have an appreciation for what he gave to future generations. It was no easy task. He got most of it done by using executive order or as he said, "I so declare it."

By working with the right people, alliance building, sheer determination, and end runs, he was able to establish most of the parks and national forests that we have in this country as well as the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

It didn't come easy and his efforts were very unpopular with some, especially in the west where he was accused of locking up the land, ruining the economy, and destroying industry. Sound familiar? He was not afraid of opposition even though he received death threats and some who administered his policies were even murdered.

T R visited Bonner County twice; once in 1889 on a hunting trip and again in 1911 on a presidential campaign stop. [I'll discuss his 1889 trip in the next issue of *Sightlines*.] His campaign stop was in Sandpoint in 1911 but it was more than just a stop. He gave a speech at an ice rink and was invited to go on a steamer and take a tour of Pend Oreille Lake. He had recently declared much of this area as a forest reserve which would later become the Kaniksu National Forest. The national forest designation would carry fewer restrictions.

Of course, there were many locals unhappy with T R over this and one was aboard the steamer. He said to T R "Do you see all that land around here?" as he swept his arm toward the mountain peaks in the vicinity of the lake, "Well, that is in forest reserve." The reporter present said there was a merry twinkle in T R's

eye as he replied, "Sir, I see you are looking for sympathy but you won't get any from me." What ever happened to statesmen like that?

He really did carry a big stick. When poaching continued in the Yellowstone national park, even after it was declared a park, he sent in the army to stop it and increased the penalty for shooting a deer or an elk to \$1000, which was a whole lot of money in 1894.

He believed that the federal government, not individuals or corporations, was the best steward of the land and that mangling the forests was injurious to every aspect of good living, not just for humans but for all living things.

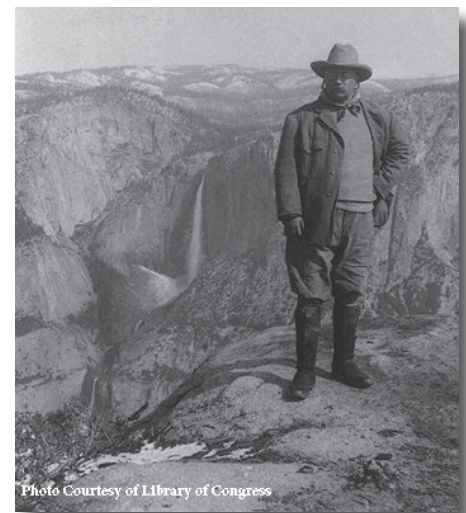


Photo Courtesy of Library of Congress

Teddy Roosevelt in the great outdoors.

The study of T R's policies and ideas would be a good "read" for today's politicians or anyone else.

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

Caribou Critical Habitat— USFWS Final Determination

BY TIM LAYSER, SCA WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

There is bit of irony this holiday season as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided with their final determination of what is critical habitat for the Selkirk's Woodland Caribou to reduce by 90 percent the amount of habitat identified. Caribou are of the same species as Reindeer, which are often thought of as being intertwined with the Holiday Season. Keep in mind, the Selkirk Mountain range of northern Idaho and north-eastern Washington is the very last location where caribou are found south of Canada.

The Selkirk caribou are mountain caribou which are different from all other subspecies and ecotypes of caribou found in North American and other parts of the northern hemisphere. Our mountain caribou once were found along most of the northern-tier states but now their range has shrunk to the Selkirk Mountains. Their current range now represents less than one-half of one percent of their former range. Here in the west caribou used to range from the Okanagan Valley of central Washington to Continental Divide in Montana and south to the Salmon River. Woodland caribou, although of the same species as reindeer, are a different subspecies and different generally in body size, how they use their habitat, antler growth and herding characteristics.

A year ago when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made their initial proposal for critical habitat for caribou they identified 375,552 acres that would be included. But their final determination a year later was whittled down to only 30,010 acres. These 30,010 acres are almost entirely located within the existing Salmo-Priest Wilderness,



Photo credit: Steve Forrest

with a small portion located within the adjacent proposed wilderness in Boundary County. Although this outcome is disappointing, it is not hard to contemplate other influential factors that came into play for this final determination—factors which might be other than the science associated with caribou and caribou's use of their surrounding habitats.

One positive note is that throughout this process the area designated as the caribou recovery area, totaling approximately 445,000 acres within the United States and an area of equal size within British Columbia, has been in place since 1983 and has remained intact thus far. This caribou recovery area is the designated and delineated area where management favors caribou needs and population recovery efforts.

SCA along with other conservation groups will be critically reviewing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's latest determination of caribou critical habitat and deciding what is SCA's best course of action for the future health of the planet's remaining caribou.

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

New Board Member Profile: John Abelson

“ *I first came to Priest Lake on a family camping trip in 1950.*

From 1951 until 1955 I lived in Priest River where my father was an engineer on Albeni Falls Dam. I went to Priest River High School and was on the Football, Basketball and Track teams. In 1953 and 1954 I worked for Blister Rust Control, in 1953 at Navigation on Upper Priest Lake.

Our family has spent summers here at Beaver Creek since 1989 and my wife and I built a new house at Beaver Creek in 1998. We have also spent a number of Christmas holidays at Beaver Creek so we also know Priest Lake in winter.

I am a biochemist and I was a professor at the University of California, San Diego and at Caltech in Pasadena. Now I am retired but I work at the University of California, San Francisco.

I love Priest Lake and want it to stay the way it is but because of my background I am highly aware of the dynamics in the North Idaho community especially in a period of economic difficulty.

I firmly believe that for the people who live here and for their children the future of Priest Lake will involve not the exploitation of the resources of Priest Lake but of its pristine beauty. The economy of North Idaho is already stimulated by tourism and in my view eco-tourism has increased greatly in the last ten years. Before it was mostly power boats that went up the Thorofare and very few canoes and kayaks. That trend is starting to reverse and that will continue.

It is valuable to have an organization whose mission it is to conserve this beautiful place—and as much as it is possible we must engage the entire community in that mission.”

SCA welcomes John Abelson as an SCA Board member. John is a member of the Beaver Creek Community Association and has an abiding love of Priest Lake and the Selkirk Mountains. Welcome aboard John!

SCA Would Like Your Opinion

Selkirk Conservation Alliance hosts its annual membership meeting and fundraising auction every year, usually in August to accommodate members who come to Priest Lake for the summer plus those of you who live at the lake. SCA also has numerous members who live in Spokane, Sandpoint, Newport and their surrounding areas.

Typically, turnout is about one tenth of our membership. SCA usually manages to raise enough to help with office and other expenses. And! We would like some feedback from our members: what might help boost attendance? Increase the success of the event? What type of gathering or fundraising event might you be most likely to participate in, in support of the SCA?

We appreciate all of you who do attend and contribute items to be auctioned—and we would also like to see success of the annual event increase.

Your input is greatly appreciated. We would like to see more of our members at our annual events so please let us know what we need to do to make that possible

1. What month would you prefer SCA to host Celebasin/Auction? ☐ July ☐ August ☐ September ☐ Other _____ (please list)
2. Where would you prefer SCA to host Celebasin/Auction? ☐ Priest Lake ☐ Priest River ☐ Sandpoint ☐ Newport ☐ Spokane ☐ Other _____ (please list)
3. Would you attend? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Why or why not?
4. If you have never attended a Celebasin/Auction event, why not?
5. What would need to change for you to attend?

General thoughts, ideas, suggestions ...

Your feedback and ideas are important to us. You can email your feedback to ravenscroft@scawild.org or clip and mail your input to: SCA PO Box 1809, Priest River, ID, 83856. Thank you. ~ Mikki

From the SCA Board Chair Lake Clean Up Adds Up

Last summer I was contacted by Andy Booth, son of SCA board member Steve Booth, who asked permission for use of my boat. They wanted to pick up closed foam cell dock flotation pieces which were littering the shoreline of the bay just West of Coolin.

disposal. A big thank you to Andy for spear-heading this lake clean-up effort. Every positive action makes a difference to the health of the lake—and its inhabitants, animal and human.

Contact Mark Kabush, SCA Board Chair, at kabush@bmi.net or (208) 443-2532.



I was amazed to see the amount of debris that collected from docks destroyed by winter storms which are then deposited by the spring run-off. We spent the day loading up my small boat and took the load to the Coolin Dump for



Several of the loads of Styrofoam removed from Priest Lake, no longer contaminating our waters and endangering our wildlife. Every positive action counts.

Share Photos, Stay Connected

We invite SCA members to share their Priest Lake and Selkirk area photographs. Email photos to sca@scawild.org or post them to the Selkirk Conservation Alliance Facebook page.

SCA can be found on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Selkirk-Conservation-Alliance/127069760653537> C'mon, we know you "like" us!

SCA Projects Update— A Look Toward 2013

A look towards SCA projects in 2013:

- SCA plans to continue the **Aerial Monitoring Program** over the Selkirks. Flights are designed to monitor snowmobile use within the designated snowmobile closures, monitor caribou locations along with other wildlife. The aerial monitoring flights are possible through contributions of Defenders of Wildlife, Kalispell Tribe, Idaho Conservation League and Advocates for the West.



Trapper Creek, mid-August 2012. Image credit: Eleanor Jones

- SCA looks to continue its **Bear Sanitation Projects**, depending upon receiving potential grants. SCA installed bear proof food storage lockers within several of the Priest Lake State Parks, with funding provided by grants from Inland Northwest Community Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative, Western Wildlife Outreach (formerly the Grizzly Bear Outreach project), the Boys Scouts of America and the Kalispell Tribe. SCA and its partners received kudos from the IGBC (Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee) for this work at their recent semi-annual meeting in Libby, MT. The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee is the multi-agency organization in charge of guiding grizzly bear recovery efforts.
- For the fifth consecutive year SCA will be conducting our **Priest Lake Water Quality**

Monitoring Program in conjunction with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (IDEQ) Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program. Due to state agency budget constraints, SCA may be asked to pick up a larger percentage of the program costs this year so member contributions are very welcome.

- SCA's **Remote Camera Project** will be up and running again. Up to 10 cameras will be placed in the Selkirk ecosystem to document the presence of rare and endangered species, general wildlife usage, and other activities.
- Other programs include **Forest Watch Program, State Lands GIS Program, Highway 57 Litter Pickup, the SCA Education and Outreach Program**, and more.

We Remember

Robert Frederick Harwood

April 14 1927 – October 14, 2012

Bob Harwood left us after a long and unusually productive life of eighty five years. His accomplishments and interests were myriad. He served on the SCA board for a few years after an active membership of many more. Bob was a friend and fishing partner for me for several years, and taught me more than I thought I could absorb. He was a member of two fly fishing clubs and received awards from them both. He was SCA's artist in residence, and contributed his talent to designing and producing tee shirts and cups embossed with his wonderfully colored fish prints.

Professionally, Bob served as chairman of the entomology department at Washington State University until he retired to a home he designed and helped to build on the Thorofare at Priest Lake. Bob had a fresh enthusiasm for life and people even as he aged. He was a lothario, singer of bawdy ballads, good shot with a scattergun, great conversationalist, devoted environmentalist, and a dear friend to me.

He is missed by all those in SCA who knew and loved him. It is difficult to say goodbye to a man of Bob's talents and commitment to the environment of the Selkirks. His spirit lives on in the memory of those of us who knew him.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Selkirk Conservation Alliance, PO Box 1809, Priest River, ID, 83856, or to the Robert and Mary Lou

Harwood Graduate Fellowship Fund, WSU Department of Entomology PO Box 641927, Pullman, WA 99164-1927.



Remote Cameras... Spying on Wildlife

BY TIM LAYSER, SCA WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST



Moose must know it's there... stares into the wildlife camera.



Camera20 26.51In→ 58°F 09-01-2012 14:07:13

Moose ambles by the remote camera, September 1, 2012, above; Elk stops to graze, photo upper right.

How many wolves can you find in the photo to the right? (answer: three "captured" on the run);



Bushnell Camera 3 27.35In→ 25°F

09-01-2012 20:47:46

In 2012, SCA was able to start our survey project using remote cameras. The cameras are triggered by movement in front of the camera and have been placed at various locations within the Priest lake Basin. In the coming year, SCA plans to purchase several more remote cameras and broaden our wildlife "capture" to include the rest of the Selkirk Mountains of Washington and Idaho.

This year cameras have captured wildlife activity on approximately 450 monitoring days. That breaks down to 90 days for each of the five cameras. So far SCA has detected eight different wildlife species: deer, moose, elk, black bear, wolves, coyote, snowshoe hare and some small gray critter.

Next year proves to be exciting, as SCA plans to leave the cameras out for a much longer time frame and in more numerous locations.

Check out Selkirk Conservation Alliance's Facebook page to view some of the better wildlife photos taken with remote camera technology. SCA can be found on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Selkirk-Conservation-Alliance/127069760653537>

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

