

# SIGHTLINES

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Spring 2017

Newsletter of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance

## FEATURES

- 4 -SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT  
-HUGHES PROJECT
- 5 -CELEBASIN 2017:  
AUGUST 12
- 6 -MEMBER REMEMBERS:  
CROSSING THE  
SELKIRKS
- 9 -BOOK REVIEW: TREE  
-NEW GRANT AWARD
- 10 -TIMBER SALES:  
TWO OF INTEREST
- 11 -AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE  
PROJECT
- 12 -THOROFARE TRAFFIC
- 15 -CREATING A  
FRIENDLY LAKESCAPE
- 16 -LICHEN COLLECTION  
PROJECT
- 18 -WILDLIFE & NATURE  
PHOTOGRAPHY
- 20 -CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
SPRING & SUMMER

## SCA Joins the 'Idaho Gives' Campaign

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The SCA is once again pleased to announce that long time supporter and board member John Ableson has agreed to match our May 4th Idaho Gives Fundraising Campaign, up to \$2,000. Even better, all of the Idaho Gives Campaign dollars raised for the SCA in 2017 will be dedicated to our Priest Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program. So, it is a great opportunity to encourage folks who enjoy the pristine water quality of Priest Lake, but who may not normally support the SCA, to consider a small financial contribution to our annual and growing water quality monitoring program.

### So, what is the Idaho Gives campaign?

Idaho Gives is a statewide day of giving, and raising awareness and support for all of the great non-profit organizations, like the Selkirk Conservation Alliance, who work hard to make Idaho a great place to live and play.

How does it work? On May 4th, the Idaho Gives platform ([idahogives.org](http://idahogives.org)) will be open for business, while a statewide promotional advertising campaign will highlight the program and a variety of non-profits across the state. Groups like ours will have dedicated fundraising pages under the larger platform,



where we'll hope to be discovered by people who may want to contribute to causes that protect the environment, protect animals, or provide educational opportunities. Check it out—you'll no doubt learn about other great organizations that may also be worthy of your support. And on our page, in addition to encouraging financial contributions, we'll also highlight some of our 2017 volunteering opportunities. There will even be a spot for folks like you to share your stories of why you support the SCA—and to encourage others to join you! We hope to see you there on May 4th!

**Show your support on May 4th and your gift to the Priest Lake Water Quality Program will be matched! [idahogives.org](http://idahogives.org)**

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

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

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*Sightlines* is the newsletter of the  
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providing environmental  
oversight and public information  
for the Selkirk Mountains.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's been an amazing 10 months since I took over as Executive Director last June. There are so many issues that will potentially affect the long term health of this region, some days it is very hard to decide where to best put my time and energy. However, no matter how hard I'm pulled in one direction or another, rebuilding the foundation of the SCA and its Board of Directors, so the organization is again sustainable and focused on its mission statement, remains my number one focus.

Figuring out how a grassroots organization like the SCA can be most effective is as much a business management issue as an environmental one. I hope that one day in the not too distant future you'll be able to look at the SCA and quote Donkey in the Disney movie Shrek, "I love what you've done on such a limited budget!" rather than just "That is a nice boulder."

Rebuilding and to some degree rebranding the SCA still very much needs your support in finding new members, contributing to our various fund-raising campaigns, and investments of your time and energy to commit to our various monitoring and restoration projects around the region. I am constantly amazed at how often people have said "Yes" when I've asked them to support a specific idea or program. Believe me, if you want to volunteer and have some time, odds are pretty good I'll get you to work quickly! The possible exception were the names written on a piece of yellow paper in the dark at a meeting near Coolin last August – I haven't been able to decipher them all... so if you were there and still want to contribute – please email us via [sca@scawild.org](mailto:sca@scawild.org).

Moving forward, you'll see that we'll be more closely monitoring volunteer labor contributions in 2017, in part because we can show your time and energy as in-kind contributions on our books and project budgets. More and more grantors and foundations are requiring this documentation, so please don't be upset if you see me asking you to log your hours, or nagging you to go online and fill out forms, etc. It really is necessary if we are to get the organization back on firmer footing, and build the organization habits, business practices and

policies that will keep it there.

In this issue you'll again find contributions from several SCA board members and a guest author Jill Cobb, hydrologist at the U.S. Forest Service Priest Lake Ranger District. If you know of a topic that would interest our membership, please consider submitting it or preparing an article by mid-August. I do apologize for not getting to write-up a summary of all the 2016 Priest Lake Water Quality Monitoring data. The 3,000+ thorofare picture analysis took longer than I had hoped.

I hope to focus our fall *SightLines* article on water quality issues and new opportunities to work with researchers from the University of Idaho's new Lake Social Ecological Systems Laboratory in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. While all data currently indicate that the lake is doing well, the methods which IDEQ having us deploy are not, in my estimation, the best available science for early detections of problems, particularly in our shallower bays. As such, we'll be working to bring our program back into full compliance with the Priest Lake Management Plan recommendations, and may consider joining the national Waterkeeper Alliance program for additional support and water quality expertise.

Finally, we have worked hard to put together a 2017 calendar of events that provide many opportunities to engage with other members, and commune with all the wonderful resources in this area.

Please come out and show your support for the SCA and its mission:

***To engage the public  
in southern Selkirk resource and  
land management issues through  
cooperation, scientific inquiry, education,  
and economic diversification.***

Thank you,  
Cheryl Moody  
*Executive Director, SCA*  
[moody@scawild.org](mailto:moody@scawild.org)

# Thank You, Year-End Match Donors!

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A huge thank you to all who answered the call to our 2016 year-end match drive! We raised nearly \$15,000 in donations, and many of you also answered the call to renew your memberships – bringing our total funds raised to over \$18,000 at the end of January. Since that time several additional donations have also arrived. We could not have raised these funds to continue the SCA's important work without the amazing generosity of John and Christine Ableson. Please let the Ablesons know you appreciate their support of the SCA anytime your paths cross, as well as all the donors listed below who also contributed to our year-end campaign. We're also including several members who made significant in-kind contributions of goods or labor during the 2016 year.

## Donors Contributing \$1,000 or More

John & Christine Ableson  
Tom Beaty  
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# Something to Think About

BY STEVE BOOTH,  
SCA BOARD CHAIRMAN

Until 1949 almost all of the timber harvested in the Priest Lake/Priest River drainage went down the Priest River in the form of log drives. What would have been the environmental benefits had there been a railroad between Priest Lake and Priest River?

The log drives really did a number on the Priest River. They broke down the river banks which widened the river—making it shallower, slower, and warmer; not to mention all of the sediment released. This changed the character of the river forever.

A railroad was proposed several times. One was even surveyed about 1912 and the right-of-way acquired. It basically followed the Highway 57 route. The Forest Service even kept their early timber sales away from the river to encourage logging companies to build a railroad to haul the timber out. The timber companies, however, did not take the bait. They decided to use the river instead.

There were two logging railroads at the lake in the 1920s, one up the Kalispell basin and one up Squaw Valley. One dumped their logs into the lake and one into the river. If there would have been a railroad mainline, they would have tied into that instead. It would have made it a much simpler operation because the loaded cars could have been shipped directly to the mills and not dumped into the lake or the river. In addition, the Lower West Branch, classified as one of the most damaged streams in the state of Idaho, could have had a spur line instead of trying to wash the logs down the stream in the spring. Eventually a flume was built but the grade was so slow, it did not work well. A railroad spur would have alleviated all of these problems and prevented extensive damage to the Lower West Branch.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



## Social Media Report & Facebook

Last issue offered some basic instruction on Facebook, and how you can use your Facebook account to help the SCA grow in both membership and financial support from foundations and grantors. Please remember to “Like” and “Follow” our page and to “Like” “Comment” and “Share” our posts with your friends periodically.

	Facebook Likes
June 1, 2016:	194
November 1, 2016	219
April 17, 2017	244
Goal for 2017	1,000 Facebook Likes ( <i>Dream Big!</i> )

Starting in 2017, all SCA activities will also appear as Facebook Events on our Facebook page. Whenever we post a new event it will us help to promote it across social media platforms if you simply indicate you are “Interested” in the event, even if you have no intentions of going. If you do plan to go, you can change that “Interested” tag to “Going”—then we can plan accordingly, and it is almost 100% guaranteed that it will also show up on your friends feed.

If they then “like” that you are going to an SCA event, it may show up on their friends’ feeds as well. This is particularly useful for activities like hikes, clinics, and our lichen collection project this summer – where many hands make lighter work, and will create an opportunity for you to meet and interact with other like-minded individuals in this area. So please, get “Interested” in all the SCA events today and get “Going” to as many of them as your schedule will allow!

# Hughes Aquatic Restoration Project

BY JILL COBB, PRIEST LAKE RANGER DISTRICT,  
IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

**T**he Hughes Aquatic Restoration Project (HARP) has been discussed for over twenty years by staff on the Priest Lake Ranger District. Though the meadow is ecologically rich and diverse, the hydrology of the meadow had been drastically altered over 70 years ago. During WWII, the US Military constructed a “secret” airstrip in Hughes meadows by moving the entire channel to a large ditch line on the far western edge of the meadow.



**A straight sterile ditch in Hughes Meadows.**

To accomplish this task, the military ditched the entire Hughes Fork in Hughes Meadows and forced the stream to abandon its historic channel that meandered back and forth across the meadow. The result of the ditching of the channel is diminished hydrologic function<sup>1</sup> in the meadow and the loss of critical fish, wildlife and plant habitat. The primary goals of the HARP effort are to restore meadow hydrology, enhance wetland species and improve fish habitat.

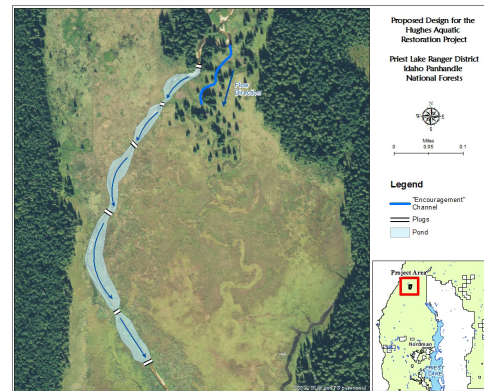
Though this project has been discussed by multiple agencies for a number of years, it is only recently that the timing was right to move forward with project

<sup>1</sup> Hydrologic function is described in terms of ability to sustain favorable conditions of water flow. Favorable conditions of water flow are defined in terms of water quality, quantity, and timing.

implementation. Interested agencies and non-profit groups supporting this Forest Service effort include the following: Priest Community Forest Connection, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Department Fish and Game, Idaho Conservation League, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Sandpoint Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the Selkirk Conservation Alliance.

The Hughes Fork is a tributary to the larger Upper Priest drainage and includes lands in both Washington and Idaho. Hughes Meadow is located entirely within the State of Idaho on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The meadow and its channel are critical habitat for threatened grizzly bears and bull trout. Unfortunately, drastic alterations in the past by mechanized equipment significantly altered the form and function of the system. Though, the original braided channel is largely intact, the entire stream flow continues to flow in the artificial ditch. Two primary actions will remedy the situation: 1) the ditch must be strategically plugged and 2) the flow of the Hughes Fork must be returned to the original channel. The length of the artificial ditch is just over one mile and the affected meadow includes about 400 acres.

**A**fter several field trips to Hughes Meadows, the consensus is that there is a definite need to restore the stream to the original channel and “decommission the ditch.” Based on preliminary field data, the partners



agree that in order to restore Hughes Meadows, we will mobilize large equipment. Large equipment will reconstruct the original channel and then plug the ditch line at multiple locations. With this approach, we will successfully reroute the water to the original channel, recharge the groundwater in the meadow, enhance native vegetation and increase fish habitat. This project links well with the recent replacement of a downstream fish passage block that was completed in 2016.

The Decision Memo for the HARP was signed in December of 2016. NEPA for the HARP fit under a Categorical Exclusion as 36 CFR 220.6(e) (18). (18) Restoring wetlands, streams, riparian areas or other water bodies by removing, replacing, or modifying



**Example of a Plug and Pond Project completed in California, our target for how the Hughes ditch will look after the project is completed.**

water control structures such as, but not limited to, dams, levees, dikes, ditches, culverts, pipes, drainage tiles, valves, gates, and fencing, to allow waters to flow into natural channels and floodplains and restore natural flow regimes to the extent practicable where valid existing rights or special use authorizations are not unilaterally altered or canceled...

## Project Implementation and Volunteers

Funding for this project is anticipated for 2017, and work would take place over about two weeks in August of 2017. If funding is not secured, then work would be rescheduled for the following year. Regardless of when the project is



**Slough near Smokechaser Cabin in Hughes Meadows.**

implemented, the success of the project is contingent on having many volunteers to help us with various stages of the project.

Currently, the project needs for volunteers include the following:

- **Fish Salvage:** Removing non-native fish and saving native fish prior to project implementation.
- **Vegetation Monitoring:** After project implementation, we will need volunteers to help re-survey the meadow for changes in plant assemblages. It is anticipated that the restoration will favor native plants and that non-natives will be significantly diminished.
- **Vegetation Planting:** We will need a large number of people to help plant native plants and construct vegetative wattles to accelerate revegetation.

*If you would like to learn more about this project or if you are interested in volunteering with us, please send an email to [jcobb@fs.fed.us](mailto:jcobb@fs.fed.us) or call Jill Cobb, Project Leader at 208-443-6835.*

## THINK ABOUT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

There are streams on the west side, such as Big Creek and Indian Creek, that probably would have used the river for transportation of the logs to the sawmills but there were other options. By the time Indian Creek was logged, for instance, trucks were coming into play.

# Celebasin 2017, August 12

**Squaw Valley (4 pm - 7:30 pm)**

Join us on August 12, 2017, at the beautiful Meadowbrook Farm in Squaw Valley (2603 Squaw Valley Road, Priest River, Idaho). Our hosts Bruce and Rosemary Yocum are providing the perfect venue for our 2017 annual meeting.

Celebasin 2017 features guest speaker, author, and filmmaker David Moskowitz, and the local premier of "The Last Stand"—a documentary on the Selkirk Mountain Caribou. After the film showing, David will also show slides and speak about the project. Back by popular demand, Dr. Scott will provide live music, the SCA will provide main courses. Plus, prizes and raffles!

Preliminary schedule of events (do double check your email and our Facebook page for changes closer to the event).

- **4-5:30PM:** Farm Tours, Hikes Along Local Trails, Silent Auction Set-Up, Lichen Weigh-Ins
- **5:30-6:30PM:** Potluck dinner, silent auction, raffles, music by Dr. Scott, short business meeting
- **6:30-7:15PM:** Guest speaker David Moskowitz and showing of "The Last Stand"
- **7:15-7:30PM:** Silent Auction Closes.

Members (and their invited guests) should bring a side dish, folding chairs, and their own adult beverages if desired. This is a family friendly, elder accessible venue – we hope to see you all and as always you are encouraged to bring a guest or two as well. Please RSVP so we have plenty of food and utensils on hand!

This is all 20-20 hindsight and the "old timers" could not have known about the damage they were doing to these streams. Only by looking back, can we do a good job of "arm chair" quarterbacking.

And while I'm wishful thinking, an abandoned railroad bed could have one day made a great bike path between Priest Lake and Priest River.



# Crossing the Selkirks: Part I

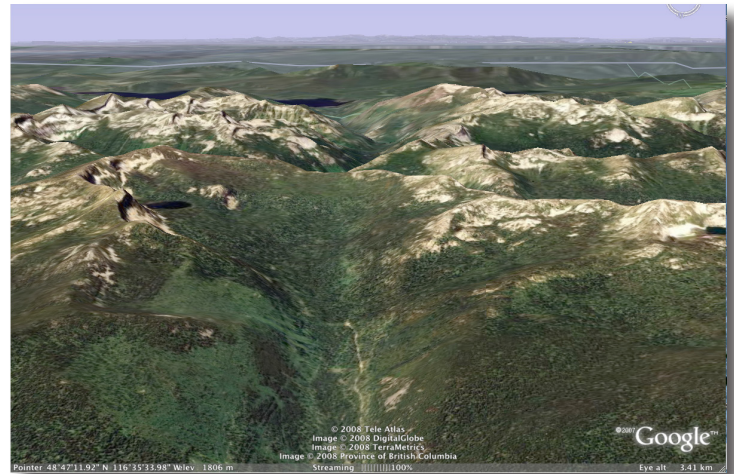
BY JOHN ABELSON, SCA BOARD MEMBER EXTRAORDINAIRE

**[Introduction from Cheryl Moody].** *I asked John to share this story from his family book because I found it so relatable to the very cold night I spent camped out below Chimney Rock in my 20's, and many of my later adventures as a field biologist in Alaska. The Selkirks can be a very unforgiving environment, and can often take even the most experienced outdoorsmen and women by surprise. Even in this age of advanced technology, planning a trip of this nature should always include a careful review of topographical maps, aerial photographs, expected routes, alternate routes, and contingency planning. GPS technology can fail and at times even lead you astray, particularly when hiking in steeper north facing canyons. While its always important to plan your trip schedule around the pace of the least fit hiker in your group – sometimes the most physically fit people I've worked with have been nearly paralyzed in remote terrain by steeper than expected slopes, unexpected wildlife encounters, or simply irrational fears of dying from hypothermia when it starts to look like an unexpected overnight is in the works. My motto has always been to plan for everything imaginable to go wrong – and then some. When you do this you'll still be around to write a great story like this one... and we hope you'll share it with us too!*

It was sometime during the summer of 2007 when I looked across the lake and up to Lion Creek and thought that would be great to walk across the Selkirks to Bonner's Ferry. We often drive up Lion Creek about 5 miles to the end of the road and then walk a remaining mile to the Slides, the granite faces on Kent Creek running into Lion Creek that are fun to slide down. We have a picnic on Lion Creek and plunge into the cold pools for a few seconds. A trail continues up on Lion Creek but the map says that it stops soon after Kent Creek. The walls of the Lion Creek Canyon are spectacular sheets of granite. The Selkirks are the same granite formation laid down some 30 million years ago on the carbonates of the 1.2 billion year old belt formation that I studied on several geology field trips with John Grotzinger and his mentor Don Winston from the University of Montana.

I have seen the Lion Creek Basin to the east and north from the Wigwags. The whole basin is rimmed by sheer granite walls. I assumed that all of the Selkirk range looked like that. Consultation of my 3D topo map suggested that the walk to Bonners Ferry would start at Kent Creek, continue on into the basin and then up over the ridge into Myrtle Creek where you could be met by car. The whole walk would be about five miles. At some point I mentioned the walk idea to my neighbor and SCA member Mark Hammarlund, and he was very enthusiastic. As a young man Mark had taken many off-trail walks in the Selkirks – for example, along Lion's Head Ridge – and had since wanted to try the Selkirk Crossing.

During the next winter the Hammarlunds made detailed plans. Mark talked two times to a state ranger who knew the terrain but who had not made the walk. He suggested



that our route go via Ball Creek, the drainage north of Myrtle Creek (on the east side of the Selkirks). Sarah Hammarlund, a sophomore at the University of Washington, downloaded a number of Google Earth images, and we all sat on the porch studying them with the maps. Mark suggested we go from east to west on our walk. In that way we would encounter the unknown territory first and could study the ridge looking for a way down before deciding to go ahead. Jan Peterson, Mark's wife, had been having knee problems so would serve as our driver over to Bonner's Ferry and then meet us there (if we aborted) or at the end of Lion Creek road. Erik Hammarlund, a then freshman in high school, also came along on the trip.

The weather in August had been very hot, some days above 90 degrees, and on Friday August 15th the Hammarlunds took an overnight camping trip to the Upper Lake by canoe. I listened to the National Weather Service and learned that a front was coming through on Monday that would likely last through the rest of the week. If we were to do the walk that year it would have to be on Sunday. The Hammarlunds returned from their canoe trip and appeared to be taking a nap. I considered not bringing the matter up. I already had some anxiety about the trip – was I really in good enough shape to do it? But about 5PM I saw Sarah on their porch and went over to talk about the trip. Mark came out and we agreed we would leave the next morning, Sunday. I copied parts of the Smith Peak and Pyramid peak 1:24,000 topo maps and made a composite which included our full route. I packed the map with a magnifying glass in a zip lock bag.

That evening, Mark came over and we again studied the maps and images, and set a plan. We would call Chris on the satellite phone to let her know when we would reach Lion Creek and she would come over in the boat to meet us. This way most of us would get home quickly (vs. the 50 mile trip down the east side of Priest Lake and back up the West Side to Beaver Creek). We would call when we reached the ridge and had found a way down. When would this be? Perhaps as early as 11AM we thought. Chris decided to stick close to the phone for the whole day.

Later, Mary Rutherford, a veteran of many Selkirk walks, came by. Mary was having back problems and would not make the trip with us, but strongly made the point that we should be prepared to bivouac. I doubted the likelihood of this, but of course there was always the possibility that someone could be injured. I packed my parka and snow pants, my fleece underwear, an extra pair of socks, my stocking cap and a new pair of opossum wool gloves from New Zealand. I was confident about my boots because they had served me well on geology field trips in rough terrain in the west, in Africa, and Australia. I brought my green OP hat and wore jeans, a tee shirt, and a blue work shirt. I borrowed Chris's sunglasses and packed my bottle of sunscreen.

I could not find any Nalgene water bottles so we agreed to meet Mary at her house to borrow hers. Somehow Mary got short circuited on her kayak trip home (everyone but me had been drinking wine at our house) so I went over to my brother Roy's house and borrowed one of his. This, together with my Exstream water purification bottle gave me two liters, the amount I take with me during a day of geology. I could also have taken a camelback in my backpack but I didn't. We have a good first aid kit and I supplemented this with extra large Band-Aids and a vial of Advil and aspirin. Sarah agreed to take the pictures and I would bring a pair of binoculars that we might need to pick our route down off the ridge. I packed my headlamp, a very old GPS, and a 30' length of half inch nylon rope. I put in a zip lock bag with candles and matches. Crucially, I made sure that my satellite phone was completely charged and made a test phone call with it. For lunch I packed a half of a small salami, rye crisps, blue cheese, an avocado, some nuts and a wonderful piece of chocolate almond cake made for the first celebration of my 70th birthday by Chris's woman's group who were at Priest Lake the week before. I also had four Clementine's. All of these were packed in a Nalgene container to protect the avocado. I borrowed Chris's jack knife so that I could slice my avocado. All of my equipment fit easily into my red pack.

**W**e agree to leave at 5AM and I set my alarm for 4:30. I took an Ambien and went to sleep but was wide awake at 4AM. By the time I met the Hammarlunds at the truck it was getting light. All of them had walking poles. We have ski poles but they aren't very good. Mark adjusted Jan's poles for me. We set out.

It was beautiful driving at this time of the morning. As we passed the hayfield after Nordman there was mist rising and the waning moon above. We were in Bonner's Ferry by about 7:30 and made a pit stop. I filled the gas tank and we set out for the trail head. Mark and Jan had figured out how to get to the Ball Creek Road. The road to Myrtle Creek was well marked and Ball Creek had to be next. The Ball Creek road was smooth but early on a downed tree blocked the road. I had brought my bow saw but not the chain saw as I didn't want it bouncing around in the back. This was a six inch tree and easy to cut with the bow saw, so we were quickly on our way again. The road gained a lot of altitude and like many of these roads there was considerable exposure on the left hand side down to the creek. After about seven miles the road

was no longer maintained and we were going through dense willows that scratched the side of the truck. We knew that this was near the end of the road and when I found a place that I could turn around I stopped. We began hiking about 8:30 or 9AM. Jan would drive to Sandpoint where her cell phone worked and wait for us to call her on the satellite phone with the decision of whether to meet at Ball Creek or Lion Creek.

**T**he road quickly got worse so it had been the right decision to stop driving, but as it turned out we quickly came to the circle at the end of the road plainly visible on the Google Earth Images. The state ranger had advised that we go northwest from the end of this road to the ridge. This, he thought, would take us to the point on the ridge in which there would be a feasible descent down into the north fork of Lion Creek. However, as we left the end of the road we quickly found an old trail going west and decided to follow it. Although this trail had not been maintained for many years it was better than going overland and in some places it was marked with red tape indicating someone had recently used it. We decided to take the trail. It was going to be a record hot day in Spokane, above 100 degrees, but the GPS indicated that we were at 4,500 feet in elevation and the temperature must not have been above 80 degrees. I set out in the lead and was feeling good. There were lots of very large huckleberries and

I would reach over frequently and put one in my mouth.

For awhile the trail was easy to follow but increasingly we were in thick alder brush. There were many downed trees and in avoiding these we would lose the trail and have to find it again. We took frequent compass readings with Sarah's compass and with the GPS and after awhile realized that the trail was bearing southwest, not



**Mark Hammarlund, the author's neighbor, an SCA member and a fellow Selkirk adventurer on the Selkirk Crossing.**

west. At one point Sarah said "We must be headed for Myrtle Lake." We sat down and looked at my topo map and it was immediately obvious that she was right. This was a trail to Myrtle Lake. But still we felt it was worthwhile to follow it. My original thought had been that we would cross over from the Myrtle Creek drainage into the Lion Creek basin so this could be okay.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



We walked steadily for an hour before taking a break. I didn't feel like eating anything and had just a few sips of water. Shortly after the break we lost the trail. Sarah looked in one direction, Mark in the other but they couldn't find it. We decided to head straight for the ridge, up the fall line going due west. Immediately it got much tougher. The alder brush was continuous and very thick. There were many downed trees. In maneuvering over one of these I fell and jammed a branch into the inside of my right arm near the elbow. It was actually spurting blood so I must have nicked an artery. I called for a stop and got out the first aid kit. I swabbed the cut with an iodine swab and put on one of the large band aids. But as I walked on the band aid became soaked and my sleeve was soaked with blood. Several more band-aids stopped the bleeding.



**The author John Abelson, longtime SCA supporter, on the Selkirk Crossing.**

The cut didn't hurt very much and these kinds of cuts happen a lot in the woods so I wasn't concerned about it, but in retrospect this could have added to the electrolyte loss that I was encountering. In an effort to break through the brush and over downed logs I was sweating a lot and my tee shirt was wet.

After this the going got a lot slower and I was certainly the slow one. I could no longer go for an hour without a break and in addition the others would have to wait for me. Time seemed to disappear. It was noon and I knew that we should be calling Jan on the satellite phone with the decision of what we would do. But we continued on and suddenly came to an opening in the brush. It was a large flat bare area. There were many elk footprints. I flopped down in relieve to be out of the alder if only momentarily. But this would not have been a good place to camp. We were immediately set upon by swarms of mosquitoes. These guys obviously made a living from the elk. There were no humans to bite around here except for us.

In this clearing we could get satellite phone reception and we discussed what we should do. We were rapidly reaching the point where we had no hope of making it through to Lion Creek in daylight. At this point we could have turned around but finding the road in this brush seemed uncertain. In retrospect it would have been better to do this but we decided to go on to the ridge and bivouac overnight there, getting an early start down into familiar territory in the morning. We reached Jan in Sandpoint and told her of our decision.

In the clearing I had one of my Clementines and a handful of Mark's trail mix and this gave me a short burst of energy, but soon I was having to stop every 20 minutes and we were not making much progress during that time. We took to any feature that would get us out of the brush. I hate to walk on logs in the woods but often this was the easiest thing to do. I used both poles, sometimes sticking one clear down to the ground and sometimes at points on the log. Sometimes a log could take you more than 100 feet up the hill. As we gained altitude we came to granite outcrops and we made our way along the edges of these or up grassy seams.

The top of the ridge came into view. We knew from our topo map that the top of this ridge was at its lowest point 6100 feet, but the GPS told us that we were at 5,800 feet, still 300 feet to go. I slogged on. Sometimes I checked my pulse. My heart was beating rapidly, perhaps 130 beats per minute and very erratically with a lot of missed heartbeats. We could see the top of the ridge and at its lowest point there appeared to be a sheer cliff just before the top. We veered to a higher point on the ridge to the south. Finally, I looked up and saw a fairly steep slope leading to the top. I pulled myself up branch by branch awkwardly, also hanging onto the poles. At the top it was level and we soon came upon a little grassy depression, an ideal place to spend the night. It was almost 5PM. The elevation was about 6,400 feet. It had taken us almost 8 hours to climb about 2,000 feet over about 1.5 sections, one and a half miles as the crow flies.

We walked around on the park-like ridge line. At this point a sheer cliff led down to Lion Creek Basin, no place for a descent here but it looked possible to the north. Mark, Sarah, and Erik went to explore the ridgeline to the south. I lay down on the grass and had another tangerine and some water. When they came back I stood up and immediately both legs cramped. I hadn't had any cramps on the hike. I staggered around looking for the right place to sit. Mark asked if I had any drugs. Only aspirin and Advil I said. Would an antacid help he asked? Mark's father Roy was a Professor of Pharmacology but Mark is a psychologist. Have you and Valium I said jokingly. Mark did suggest eating some dried banana chips for the potassium and I ate a few and took four Advil. After awhile the cramps went away. Actually cramps almost always go away within ten minutes for me but during the ten minutes it never seems like they will. We ate our lunches. The avocado and cheese on the rye crisp was very good and also the salami. I drank more water and had almost finished the liter bottle but still had most of the water purification bottle. After dinner, I called Chris on the satellite phone and got through. She thought we were doing the right thing by not trying to go on until the next day but I lost the connection before the end of the talk.

## **TO BE CONTINUED...**

*To make sure you don't miss out on the next part of this exciting adventure, please be sure your 2017 membership has been renewed! Not sure? Call the office at 208.448.1110 or simply renew online at [www.scawild.org](http://www.scawild.org).*



# Book Review: *Tree—A Life Story*

REVIEWED BY ELEANOR (HUNGATE) JONES, SCA BOARD MEMBER

***Tree—A Life Story* by David Suzuki and Wayne Grady is available from Graystone Books, Vancouver BC, 2004**

Visitors to Priest Lake have innumerable opportunities to see beautiful trees, but a stop at the Roosevelt Cedar Grove is the place where they are simply overwhelmed by the grandeur of the Douglas-firs reaching 150 up the sky.



**Indian Pipe around Caribou Creek, Priest Lake, Idaho. Find out why this is significant “relationship.”**

Wrap one's head around the fact that these trees have been standing for 800 to 2000 years. Not easy! Think about it. When the 800 year old trees were merely seeds, Genghis Khan was conquering China and Marco Polo was on his incredible journey; 2,000 years ago, Caesar ruled the Roman Empire, China was known about through rumor and legend while the Mayans and Valley of Mexico urban societies were just developing. Yet, here are the trees – before our eyes, standing through time.

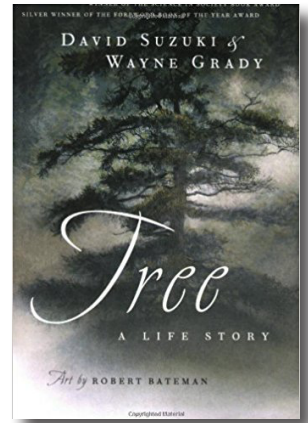
And it is exactly the long standing grandeur of the Douglas-fir that this book pays tribute to, chapter by chapter – ‘how they reproduce and how they receive from and offer nourishment to generations of other plants and animals and how they die. The tree's ‘pivotal role in making life possible for the creatures around it — including human beings — is lovingly explored.’

*Tree* is full of facts tied to events going on in the larger world. One of the events we can tie into locally is the 1926 fire that ripped through the Roosevelt grove destroying 75% of the original growth. Douglas-firs do not need fire to reproduce, but they depend on fire for their survival. Fire clears the ground and the ash adds the needed nutrients for seed growth. A reasonable question is to ask why didn't all the trees burn? The answer: “Mature Douglas-firs...have evolved thick, non-flammable bark – up to 12 inches thick that protects the living cambium layer within.’ This is but one

fact among so many that *Tree* presents in such a readable manner.

Perhaps during a woodland hike in the Selkirks, you've seen pink stemmed Indian Pipe growing straight and proud under the forest trees. It turns out that this flowering plant depends upon at least one of the 2,000 species of fungi that are in a symbiotic relationship with the Douglas-fir. The Indian Pipe, which has no chlorophyll of its own (the reason it turns black as it matures) attaches to the fungi attached to the tree and feeds from nutrients sent from the tree. No one knows if the Indian Pipe reciprocates or not – which these authors point out could be ‘one of the rare instances in nature of a free lunch.’

When I picked up this small book of 148 pages including some lovely original drawings, I never anticipated being so absorbed with a single topic – one Douglas-fir from birth to death. This book truly opened my eyes to the interconnected world of organisms, including animals, birds, insects and yes, even fungi as a force in our forests. I urge you to put this book into your hands and get as much pleasure from it as I did. I will never enter a forest again or look at a Douglas-fir – or for that matter, any tree – in the same manner again. Indeed, my forest grew!



## SCA Awarded New Grant from the Charlotte Martin Foundation

On April 6, 2017, SCA received this exciting news — a check is in the mail! This new grant from Charlotte Martin Foundation will support our GIS program updates and forest advocacy/biodiversity work. This foundation was a major sponsor of the SCA years back, and we are so excited to have their support moving forward once again!

*“The Charlotte Martin Foundation is pleased to inform you that you have been awarded a grant in response to your recent grant application.*

*The checks are in the process of being mailed, so you should receive yours soon.*

*We are happy to support your work. We consider you partners in reaching our goals.*

*Congratulations,  
The Board of the Charlotte Martin Foundation*



# Timber Sales of Interest?

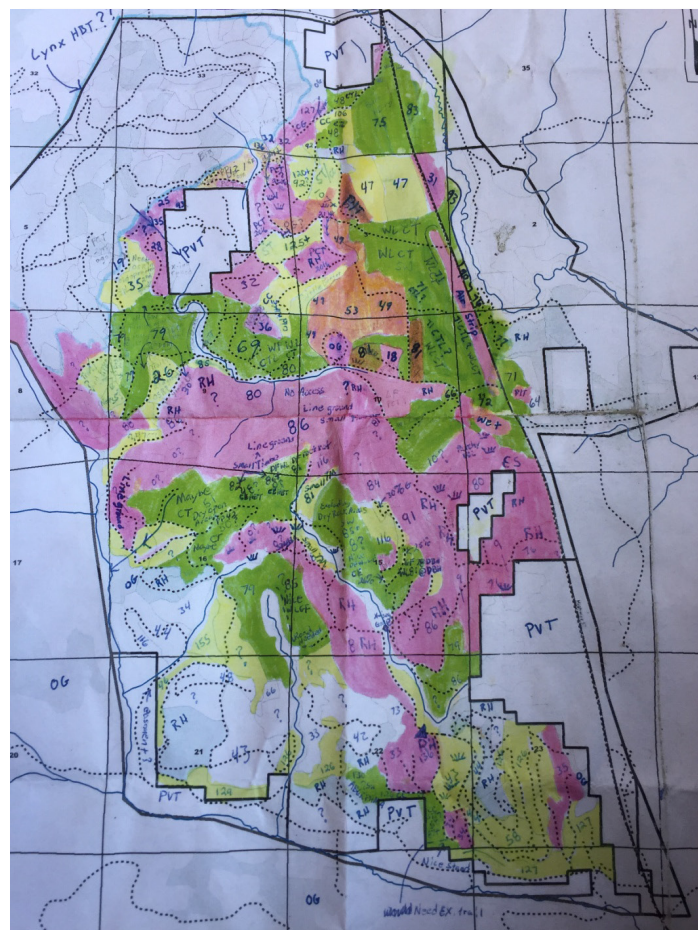
BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Love them or hate them, timber sales drive a significant portion of the economy in this area. It's hard to love a clear cut (though the huckleberries that sometimes follow can be delicious); and when you factor the costs of logging a tree, transporting it via truck to a mill, milling it, treating and/or wrapping it, then transporting that newly milled lumber to a store near you for purchase – one can start to fathom why lumber recycling is starting to be economical in many parts of the country.

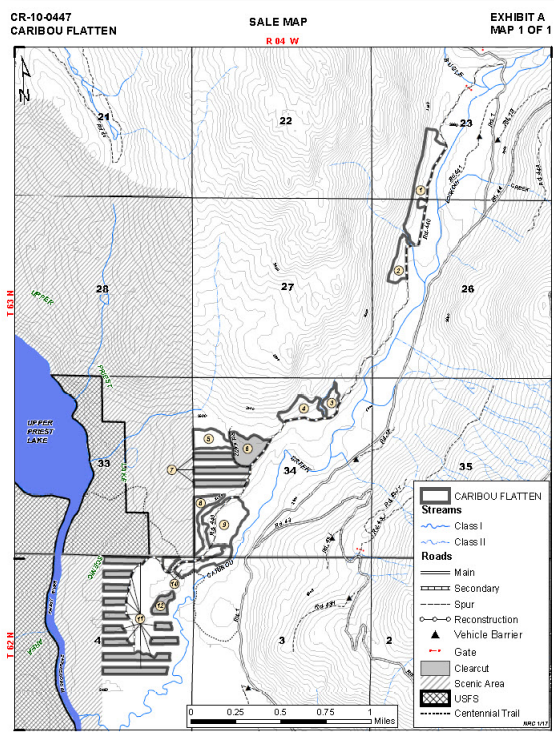
Some critics of the SCA have told me they “hate” the organization because we have historically objected to “everything.” Looking across the lake at the hillsides of the Selkirks, I have to think that while we may have opposed a lot of sales, we clearly haven't been very effective at stopping many of them! I also see a lot of lumber coming off the west side logging roads as I make my weekly forays to Spokane to check on my elderly

mother – so how can we know whether current harvest rates are sustainable or not?

As we start to bring our Geographical Information System (GIS) back online and get it up to date using satellite imagery etc., we'll be able to see and quantify just how much of this area has been cut, and how much commercial timber and other important habitats remain. We'll be able to look at the successional stages of older cuts and with some field work see if they are recovering as predicted in timber management plans.



**Figure 1. Potential harvest and forest “restoration” units at Hanna Flats.**



**Figure 2. IDL Caribou Flatten Timber Sale near Upper Priest Lake and the Thorfare**

Meanwhile, we'll keep commenting on as many sales that fall within our advocacy area (all 1.75M acres of it) as possible, in hope that we can at least see critical waterways, wildlife and fish habitats, and vegetative biodiversity are maintained. Two timber sales that are likely of particular interest right now to many of our members are the proposed sales at Hanna Flats (Figure 1) on USFS lands, and the proposed sale near the Upper Lake/Thorfare by the State of Idaho (Figure 2). The name of the Idaho sale, “Caribou Flatten” is particularly disheartening, showing a complete disregard for an endangered species which used to thrive in the Caribou Creek drainage.

If you want to be involved with helping to monitor or inventory resources in either of these

areas please let us know. We have very limited staff resources to tackle timber sales of this nature at this time, and rely heavily on the data and information we get from engaged members and local forest advocates. Very few, if any, foundations are funding forest advocacy work; in part because the regulations vary so much from state to state that it is difficult to measure the effectiveness of their financial contributions.

This past winter, I read the novel *Barkskins* by Annie Proulx. It is a historical novel spanning several generations of two families; and documents the deforestation of the eastern hardwood region of the U.S. into Canada and other locations around the globe. It's a long read, but tells the story of how years ago, the people of those regions had the same mentality we still see here -- that the forests will last forever and/or can be replaced with some simple care for the land. In fact, several recent studies indicate



all major forest biomes on earth are dying at a rapid rate.

In our region, this thinking that our forests will last forever could benefit from some historical perspective, particularly in light of climate change. Meanwhile, we can all be better informed and vigilant – and more careful with our consumption of paper, lumber, firewood, etc. For example, taking things to the dump when they can be recycled or repurposed by someone else (even lumber), should always be avoided whenever practicable. Much of the paper Americans throw away daily can slow the cycle of deforestation around the globe, if we all start recycling at every opportunity.

### To learn more, consider reading:

- [inhabitat.com/studies-show-all-major-forest-biomes-on-earth-are-dying-and-fast/](http://inhabitat.com/studies-show-all-major-forest-biomes-on-earth-are-dying-and-fast/)
- [www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/43744](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/43744) – which shows the net change in forest density from 1873 – 2001 and has downloadable maps which show deforestation across the US
- [washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/03/27/one-of-the-most-troubling-ideas-about-climate-change-just-found-new-evidence-in-its-favor/?utm\\_term=.0908021140e0&wpisrc=nl\\_&wpm=1](http://washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/03/27/one-of-the-most-troubling-ideas-about-climate-change-just-found-new-evidence-in-its-favor/?utm_term=.0908021140e0&wpisrc=nl_&wpm=1), an article on weather pattern changes.

If you want to be involved with helping to monitor or inventory resources in either of these areas please let us know.

With very limited staff resources to tackle timber sales of this nature, at this time, we rely heavily on the data and information from engaged members and local forest advocates.

# Help the Idaho Amphibian & Reptile Mapping Project Using *iNaturalist*

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**A**re you a closet naturalist, or someone who just likes to poke around the wilds? Got a smart phone? Or a digital camera, GPS, and notepad?

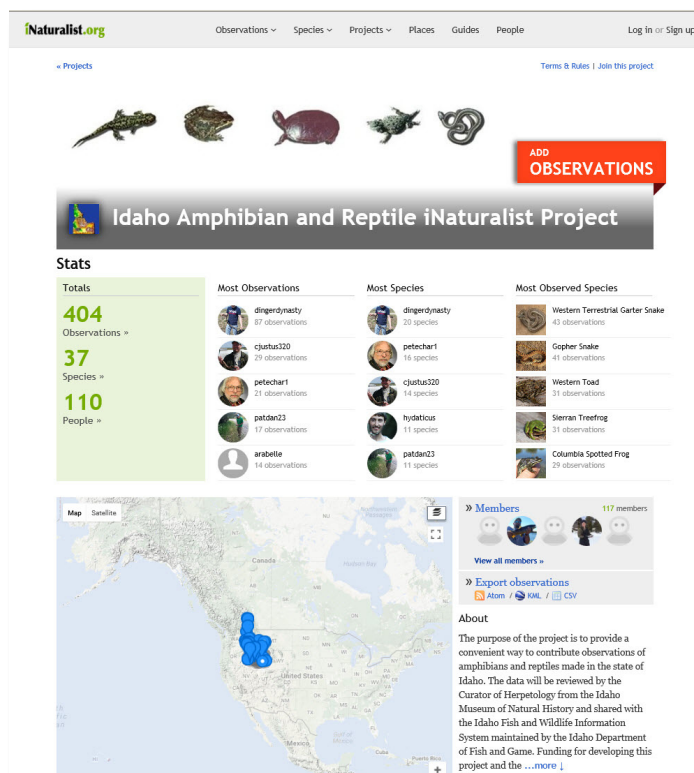
The State of Idaho would like your help documenting amphibians and reptiles across the state and have paired with the iNaturalist program to help you do it. The program is very easy to participate in. First, download the iNaturalist App from either the Apple or Android store, or login to [www.inaturalist.org/projects/idaho-amphibian-and-reptile-inaturalist-project](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/idaho-amphibian-and-reptile-inaturalist-project). Create a login/profile in advance so you are ready to load your observations quickly in the field.

**O**n your next adventure, when you discover any frog, toad, snake, or salamander—snap a picture with your phone while the GPS feature is activated. Most newer phones maintain their GPS capabilities when out of cell phone range. If you have an older model or lack a smart phone you can

also participate by using a handheld GPS, digital camera, and notebook to log your observations.

There are tools available to help you identify your finds, and experts will even confirm identification before its officially logged into the biodiversity database for Idaho.

We'll have a prize for the most entries by an SCA member as of August 1, 2017, at our Celebasin Event. Get snapping!



## SCA Receives Guidestar Silver Participant Status

**T**he Guidestar Program is used by many grantors and donors to provide legitimacy to non-profit groups and their funding platforms and websites. After submitting our financial records and IRS documentation, the SCA has achieved Silver Status in this nationally recognized program. Guidestar recognition helps provide assurances to grantors that our program funds are used as designated, and enables them to give to the SCA with confidence.



# 2016 Priest Lake Thorofare Traffic Results

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In mid-June of 2016 the SCA placed two remote wildlife cameras on the lower end of the thorofare (on private property off the channel, with the owner's permission) to increase our understanding of a number of issues, including:

1. The usefulness of these types of cameras for these types of applications? Could law enforcement use these cameras to capture violations and prosecute offenders?
2. How much traffic is occurring up and down the channel?
3. What types of watercraft are currently using the channel? Are larger boats unable to make the trip as some groups would have us believe?
4. How common/flagrant are potential violations of the no-wake zone?
5. How might members of the SCA engage with local groups and officials to better protect this precious resource?

While I'm sure we can tease more nuggets of information out of the data collected, here's our take on what we've learned to date:

## 1. Usefulness of the Cameras and Data

As expected, the motion detectors on the cameras cannot reach all the way across the channel, can be falsely triggered by winds blowing adjacent vegetation (birds, bats, and wildlife too). Glare can render many of the images obtained useless or only partially useful, and being under observation can be annoying to property owners who rightly decide enough is enough and throw a towel over them on occasion (and who could blame them?). However, when the stars align many of the images captured clearly show recognizable boats. The wake size against the boat is relatively easy to see, and the size of the waves coming into shore provide a good glimpse of what the 'no wake' policy really means for the shorelines of this channel. The images rarely provide a detailed look at individuals, boat registration numbers, or the number

of people in each watercraft—often because glare affects one or more of these factors during any given capture.

## 2. How Much Traffic is Occurring in the Channel?

To set up the cameras we had board member Mark Kabush use one of his fishing boats travel up and down the channel. We adjusted the cameras until we had success capturing images for both upstream and downstream traffic. However, we found that rarely did both

tive tour in July (likely due to excessive glare on the water, etc.). Some surprising finds – if you prefer to have a quiet experience on the thorofare and at the upper lake, not surprisingly you should typically avoid weekends – but also avoid Thursdays in July and August. Mondays through Wednesdays are significantly lower traffic days in all months, but particularly in July and August. Now certainly winds and other weather factors could have played a role in this 2016 observation.

Remote Camera Watercraft Observations in Thorofare 2016

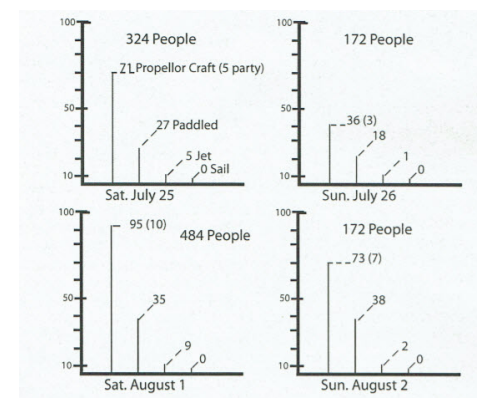
	Number of Unique Observations	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
May	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
June 15 - 30	93	16	10	20	21	0	7	19
July	723	54	35	48	152	63	176	195
August	803	112	77	66	131	178	133	106
September	233	27	25	17	17	38	37	72
October	11	1	0	1	0	1	0	8
Totals	1,863	210	147	152	321	280	353	400

Remote camera data do not present a complete picture of 2016 traffic in the thorofare. Our tests captured a small subset of the watercraft that passed by them, as their motion detectors only reach ~65 feet from the camera position (~50' across the channel). Glare, reset times between shots, and other factors also influence what shots are obtained. Watercraft can trigger the cameras going up or down the waterway, or not at all. Tests using SCA watercraft typically resulted in only 1 of 4 trips being recorded. On some camera download days, observations of as many as 10 watercraft went by with no camera triggers. As such, the recorded numbers likely only reflect a small portion of the actual traffic. Total counts are likely 3 - 10x shown here.

cameras capture the same trip, even when the boat was as close to shore as possible. Further, we experimented with the reset times between images, in hopes of not capturing 5 pictures of the same boat cruising by. Once we had reasonable capture with Mark's skiff, we captured data for 2 weeks, then reviewed and made some adjustments to reset times, etc. During each download event, I also counted actual traffic vs how often the cameras activated. One time 10 boats went by without a single capture. On average I'd say when both cameras were operating we would get one out of three or four. So, the results presented below only represent about 10-25% of the traffic that the channel is actually seeing. Only one of the cameras captured data consistently after July 1st. Other specific observations include not seeing the sheriff boat (readily discernible) except on four occasions (presumably they go up more often than that?), the SCA boat on any occasion (we go up monthly to water sample), or any of the boats during the legisla-

While we recognized the need to supplement the study with actual observations early on, we simply lacked the budget and equipment to locate staff on the channel, but opted to leave the cameras in hopes of learning at least partial answers to our questions above. Some longterm SCA members may remember 2009 efforts to study the number of people enjoying the thorofare. Results from those observation periods over two weekends are also repeated here for your consideration:

Thorofare One-Way Traffic (2009)





### 3. What Types of Watercraft are Using the Thorofare?

Big boats, little boats, power boats, paddle boats, and most anything else you can imagine (and probably some you couldn't) were observed successfully making their way up or down the channel under their own power or under tow. Of the 1,863 distinct watercraft observations made (watercraft going up or down the channel), motorized are outnumbering non-motorized almost 3:1 (though there is likely a camera bias towards larger boats, as smaller non-motorized vessels can more easily hug the shorelines and avoid triggering the motion sensors). In non-motorized captures, kayaks are outnumbering canoes ~ 3:1 and only a small number of stand up paddleboards (SUPs) were captured by the cameras; kayaks outnumber these close to 10:1.

visitor that he had seen an actual wake boat with a surfer in the thorofare, four categories were created: 1) No wake (3" or less), Small Wake (3-6", pushing the limits...), Moderate Wake (>6" but less than 12) and Large (>12). Of the 1,863 photographs that were clear enough to distinguish unique boats and wakes (again, potentially as low as 10% of the actual traffic the channel is seeing, but more likely 25-30%), 231 boats were pushing the limits towards potential wake violations (12%). One and a half percent, (approximately 30 vessels) had wakes that were clearly (in our opinion) greater than 6 inches. While a few could have been over 12", none were so much over that they clearly fell into the large classification. There was one boat that was a repeat offender, easily recognizable by its color, configuration, and Beverly Hillbillies



**Watercraft on the Upper Lake thorofare.**

*Photo credit: J. Michael Short*

navigating the channel with little to no actual wake. If others were encouraged to slow down a bit more, it will slow channel degradation from the bank erosion that results from wave action.

While more work needs to be done with the data set, initial indications are that the vast majority of people pushing the limits or violating the current No Wake zone are doing so on their way home. Increasing patrols in the afternoon, putting spotters with smaller boats on the channel, and/or real time remote cameras would enable marine law enforcement to ticket more and sit outside the main entrance. Once the word gets out, this will be a deterrent for many.

Increasing fines dramatically for wake violations is a common practice in many areas. Having different levels of fines for repeat offenders, which can ultimately result in the forfeiture of your vessel, will be much more effective deterrents.

While many members may want the SCA to push for non-motorized use only, this is unlikely to happen and will simply create more distrust and anger at the organization. Instead, let's consider possible solutions like non-motorized Wednesdays, electric motor only Fridays, no-stereo Sundays, alternating motorized vs. non-motorized weekends; or as traffic grows, implementing a lottery that limits the number of motorized vessels per week (with the funds going towards the channel embankment restoration projects that are ultimately going to be necessary).

We'd love to hear your ideas on how to accommodate multi-use in this area that we all treasure – and we look forward to learning more about current thorofare use in 2017. Want to help? Call or email the SCA office before mid-May 2017.

**2016 Watercraft Type**

Month	Number of Unique Observations	Non-Motorized			Motorized						
		Kayak	Canoe	SUP	Jet Skis	Sailboat	Fishing	Motor	Pontoon	Other*	Subtotal
June 15 - 30	93	7	6	4	2	0	5	43	25	1	93
July	723	128	37	6	19	3	20	325	139	46	723
August	803	112	58	26	29	3	23	357	153	42	803
September	233	53	13	0	8	3	9	100	41	6	233
October	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	0	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>1,863</b>
		<b>Non-Motorized</b>			<b>Motorized</b>						
		450			1,318			190			1,863

\* Other includes houseboats, barges, towed objects, etc. It is likely a mix of motorized and non-motorized.

Motorized use was split into Jet Skis, Sailboats, Fishing (skiff type), Pontoon Boats, and Other Motor (Wake, Ski, Fishing, etc.) Boats. The "Other" category captured the occasional houseboat, barge, floating docks with motors (?), things being towed by other boats, etc. It's a mixture of motorized and non-motorized, but all things capable of generating their own wakes. Initially we had hoped to flag boats both coming and going, but between the glare issues, some boats staying overnight, some returning in the dark, etc. it was simply not possible to track all vessels or get to an average length of stay estimate.

Besides watercraft, the cameras also recorded deer, moose, a mountain lion, moose, geese, and other waterfowl enjoying the waterway.

### 4. How Common/Flagrant are Potential Violations of the No Wake Zone?

Starting out with approximately 3000 photos to review and indications from one

collection of gear stowed and towed...

We have stored copies of these photographs, as well as some of the larger boats observed in separate folders for easy reference. But if anyone tells you that large boats cannot navigate the channel anymore, they are probably wanting to sell you a future ticket on a cruise ship ride... because there is no shortage of pictures of large boats, many likely suitable for ocean travel, making the trip to the upper lake.

### 5. How might members of the SCA engage with local groups and officials to better protect this precious resource?

Bonner County defines a "No Wake" zone as wake less than six inches. If no restrictions on the amount of boats or the size of boats are planned, it would seem that redefining "No Wake" as less than three inches in the thorofare would result in less wave action and erosion. The vast majority of boaters are already

## The PayPal Giving Fund: Keeping Your Donation to the SCA Anonymous

**W**e know that some SCA supporters like to keep their association with us anonymous. There are many reasons companies or individuals opt to do this, and we're pleased to announce a new way you can make a contribution to us that insures we'll never know who you are (or really how to thank you, so please don't feel bad when we don't!).

One donor has already made a generous \$1,010.00 contribution to the SCA using this method, and we truly have no idea who they are! So if you are reading this dear mystery donor, THANK YOU!

The Paypal Giving Fund is a registered 501(c) charity, so any contributions made to them result in your tax deductible receipt coming from them, not the SCA. However, when you designate the SCA as your charity under the fund, we'll receive the funds you donate within a month of receipt with no overhead or administrative deduction made by Paypal. We'll then issue a receipt to the giving fund for our records – but if you choose to remain anonymous when you make the donation to Paypal, we'll absolutely have no way of ever finding out who you are...

## SCA Gets New Employee Handbook

**T**hanks to a program through the Idaho Non-profit Association, the SCA has a new up to date employee handbook courtesy of human resources students and their professor at Boise State University. Boise State marketing students will likely help us with a marketing plan in the fall of 2017, so if you are contacted with surveys or mailers, please take time to respond. Your input is critical to making a strong, well-balanced, and thriving SCA!

## Welcome, New SCA Board Member Martin Stacey



**P**lease join us in welcoming lifetime SCA member and Priest Lake enthusiast Martin Stacey to the SCA Board of Directors. Martin came to our attention via introductions from the Kootenai Environmental Alliance and former SCA Executive Director Barry Rosenberg.

Many of you may know Martin as the publisher of the "Nickelsworth" in this region, and/or his coaching of the Coeur d'Alene crew (rowing) team. He has been in love with Priest Lake since first eyeing it in the 70s and owns a cabin (well, in truth he says it owns him) on Canoe Point near the northeast end of the lake. We are thrilled to have someone with Martin's business and legal background on our Board.

We've still got two open spots... who shall we strong arm next?

## SCA Joins Benevity

**T**hanks to SCA Member Anne Batey, the SCA was nominated and has been accepted into the Benevity Em-



ployer Match Giving Platform. This platform is used by many major employers to

## Advertising Opportunities in *SightLines*?

**T**o offset increasing printing and production costs, and hopefully again be able to print your *SightLines* newsletters in color, we are offering SCA supporting businesses the opportunity to advertise in the newsletter. While we hope to move to a digital newsletter format in the next few years, many of our long-term members prefer paper newsletters.

A business card advertisement is now available at \$35/year, a quarter page for \$75, half-page for \$150, and full page for \$300. If sufficient advertising revenue is obtained, future newsletters will be printed in color, but we cannot guarantee that so recommend submitting your copy in both color and black and white formats.

**D**igital submissions of advertisements should be sent via email to [sca@scawild.org](mailto:sca@scawild.org) no later than October 1 for our fall edition and April 1 for our spring newsletter. Each ad will run for two consecutive newsletters.

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

support their employee match donation programs. If you work for an employer who has a corporate match program, chances are they use the Benevity platform or one like it.

If your employer offers a match program but uses another platform, chances are you must nominate us before year end so we can submit the required paperwork, and get approved. Thanks again to Anne Batey for nominating the SCA to Benevity!



# Beauty, Wildlife, and Water Quality: Creating a Friendly 'Lakescape'

BY SHARON SORBY, SCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**A**s spring unfurls, it's time to wake up our gardens, drink in the spring greens, bask in the warming sun and day dream of the colors ready to burst, bud, and bloom for us this garden season. Shoreline 'lakescapes' play a major role in protecting our favorite lake use pastimes. Run-off from roads and yards carry toxins, pesticides and fertilizers, diminishing water quality, triggering algal blooms, killing fish and causing excess weed growth.

'Lake friendly' landscaping reduces pesticide and fertilizer need, helps filter harmful contaminants from run-off, helps control erosion, and provides important habitat for wildlife and your viewing enjoyment.

## The Transition Zone is Key

The transition zone—between water, aquatic plant beds and shore—provides the most important lake habitat. Many insects, amphibians, crustaceans and mollusks congregate in this zone, providing forage for both land and water animals and fowl. The aquatic plant beds help purify the water by absorbing nutrients. They provide shelter for young forage and game fish as well as provide nesting sites for water birds such as loons, along with oxygenating the water through photosynthesis. The transition zone also allows egress and ingress for water wildlife as well as provides shelter for nesting and rearing young in the native vegetation.

**B**ulkheads, excessive bank armoring and wide expanses of lawn comprise the most common 'lakescape' mistakes as they interrupt the native vegetation and destroy the transition zone. Dangerous to children, the elderly and wildlife, bulkheads also fail to provide optimal erosion control. Planting and maintaining native vegetation, especially brush species where branches touch the water,

provides wave energy dissipation, more effective erosion control as well as the multiple services of filtrating toxins and nutrients from run-off and providing habitat.

Wide expanses of lawn require lots of time to mow, increase pesticide and fertilizer use, and cause clipping disposal dilemmas. As well, lawn attracts Canada geese at nuisance levels, in turn creating sanitation and further nutrient loading problems. Mulching perennials on the upper bank with the grass clippings or composting them away from the shoreline helps to resolve clipping disposal problems. Reducing the lawn size by leaving aquatic plant beds and planting the transition zone with native vegetation as well as other habitat features in the yard will help resolve the problems caused by too much lawn.

Restoring or maintaining shoreline habitat does not mean building a barrier of native vegetation between your home and the lake. A balanced approach to 'lakescaping' retains natural habitat, reduces pollution and erosion while meeting your aesthetic and access needs. Think of the transition zone as 50 feet into the water and 50 feet up onto the shore. Restoring or maintaining native vegetation for three-quarters of the length of shoreline owned can meet both wildlife and access needs such as a dock and swimming area.

Trees and shrubs strategically placed on the upland area of a lakeshore yard can help provide habitat and a sense of privacy for the home without obscuring the view of the lake. Choosing trees and shrubs with berries or fruit, such as mountain ash, serviceberry and huckleberries, increase bird-watching opportunities. Restoring or maintaining the aquatic and emergent vegetation beds with bull rush, cattails and bur reed, and anchoring a loon nesting

platform offshore, gives the opportunity for experiencing a family of these elusive birds.

**U**pland perennial flower beds of native, such as lupine, goldenrod and cardinal flower, along with noninvasive exotics, such as roses, Monarda (bee balm), columbines, dahlias, garden iris, gladiolas and lavender, provide eye-pleasing color and forage for hummingbirds and butterflies. Nest boxes and shelters, strategically placed in the upland garden, provide for insect predators such as bluebirds, swallows and bats.

Bat houses are particularly useful for luring bats out of the home structure. The nutrient rich guano can be collected below and redistributed throughout the upland planting beds as fertilizer. Although historically maligned, a bat consumes seven times its body weight in insects every evening! They provide a significant natural control for biting insects, such as mosquitoes as well as forest insect pests.

For a given lake, studying undisturbed shoreline can teach what natural conditions and vegetation to copy for your property. What emergent plants are present? Which wildflowers and shrubs do best and which ones do you like the looks of best? The answer to these questions will give you the best choices for your property.

Also, talking to other shoreline owners who have maintained or restored the transition zone will help yield the best strategies for your property - which have succeeded, which have failed? Sharing information on habitat restoration and management will help contribute to healthier, cleaner water to play in and more diverse lakeshores, yielding more fish and wildlife to enjoy watching.

# Arboreal Lichen Collection Project (aka Many Hands Make Light Work!)

BY CHERYL MOODY, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2017 winter census of the southern-most population of the Selkirk Mountain Caribou herd has further declined to 11 animals. As part of the ongoing recovery plan, the Kalispel Tribe has received preliminary approval to construct a maternal pen near the border U.S./Canadian border.

Once the pen has been constructed and all the components needed to support the herd are in place, then the Canadian Government will hopefully provide five pregnant cows for the new pen (an existing pen operation is already successfully operating near Revelstoke,

- and
2. fundraising and finding grantors who work on both sides of the border who could provide funding to purchase the zoo ration which supports the cows for nearly five months after they are weaned off the lichens (~\$4,000/year with shipping from Calgary, etc.).

Arboreal lichens are not heavy by nature, and after drying they are of course even lighter. We're hoping to collect enough lichens annually so the support team can reintroduce the cows and calves back to a lichen diet before their

release into the wild as well. This goal doubles the amount needed to approximately 200 pounds/year (dried). We're hoping SCA members will embrace the opportunity to really do something meaningful to facilitate herd recovery during the summer and fall of 2017; and hopefully into future years once the program gets going. So, how can you help? See the Who, What, Where, and When's below...

annual meeting for the individuals or families that collect the most lichens by August 12<sup>th</sup>, and will do a weigh-in at Celebasin to see how much progress we've made as a group at that point. However, if you plan to collect independently, please read the permit and stay within the designated areas, and keep a copy of the permit with you in case you are approached by rangers, etc.

## What to Collect?

First off, understand what arboreal lichens are. These are the stringy grayish green and brownish black strands that hang from many trees in our area. As a kid, we always called these witches hair! The caribou eat both types of these lichens (the dark brown *Bryoria* spp. shown in photo, left, and light green *Alectoria samentosa* shown in photo, page 17) but under times of stress (say, right after capture) they may be more drawn to the darker varieties (*Bryoria* spp.). Ground growing lichens are not palatable to mountain caribou and the permits we have obtained (or are working on) do not authorize collection of ground growing lichens. Look up — or for dead branches on the ground.

Handling lichens directly should only be done with gloves on — and preferably gloves that you don't pet your dogs or other animals with, or have any other strong smells that may be habituating to the penned animals. Since we want this to be a family friendly affair, consider having the more nimble family members collect downed branches which have lichens attached to them (gloves optional) and then taking those branches to less nimble family members who do wear gloves to pull the lichens off, and where easy, separate them by color/species. Or, consider collecting a bunch of downed branches with lichens, and then enjoy a family campfire where you separate lichens from the branches (again wearing your gloves!), and then use your dead branches for firewood. Easy, quick, and fun! S'Mores anyone?



**RCRW volunteers collect *Bryoria* spp. at Revelstoke Mountain Resort, B.C.**

B.C.). The intent of the new pen is to help rebuild the southern-most herd (i.e., the group that still crosses the border into the U.S. annually).

The SCA is challenged by the international insurance and labor law issues that the project presents. After reviewing the general program needs, it seemed the best way for the SCA to meaningfully contribute would be

1. by providing the permits, labor, and general support needed to collect the arboreal lichens which the newly captured cows are first fed,

## Who Can Collect?

The permits (one pending) will be limited to SCA members and waiver signing volunteers who have accepted the terms of the various landowner based stipulations. We see this as a very family-friendly activity that can be combined with hiking, berry picking, or other forages into the back country (as well as your front yards if you live on deeded land) — or you can join us for one of our organized events (see SCA Facebook and page 20, this issue).

We'll even have some prizes at our



## Important!

After you have collected the lichens, it's very important to put them in mesh bags or lay them out to dry where they are protected from rain or hungry deer until they are dry. Don't store them in plastic bags or put them away wet if it has been raining recently. Hang them if you can, or drop them by our official drying station (also the location of Celebasin this year, see page 20 for the address), or if you have a large volume we may be able to arrange for a volunteer to pick them up (give the office a call).

## Where to Collect?

**Private Lands:** Collection of downed branches or collections from low lying branches may only be done legally if you have the landowners approval or are in public right-of-ways. Again, please only collect wearing gloves if you are handling lichens directly.

### East Side Collections on IDL

**Lands:** Please see maps in permit document. Horton Ridge, Eddy Peak, and Abandon Creek drainages all have designated collection areas. However, you must document in your notes which area you collect in as a condition of this permit. Hurray for IDL for getting their permit to us in such a

timely manner!

### West Side Collections on USFS Lands:

As we go to press we are still waiting on the USFS to provide their approved area maps and stipulations. We appreciate the time and care that the USFS is putting into this process, particularly because other species also rely on these lichens during difficult winters like the past one. Once we have the permit, you will be able to download a copy of the document from our website, or call our office to have a copy mailed to you.

## When to Collect?

Private land collections can occur annually. State land collections are also not limited by any seasonal restrictions. Presumably the federal permit will also lack restrictions on when lichens can be



**Alecortia samentosa**

collected, but until we see it, we really can't say! But we expect to have it up on the website by early May.

## Join a Group Collection!

We have 4 events planned this summer. Facebook, the website, or the office can provide the specific collection meeting locations for each monthly event, as well as contact information for our volunteer coordinator, Bridget Gies. Bring a lunch, your gloves, and a folding chair if you are limited to picking/sorting and stay for the day or just a few hours... we'll coordinate car pools are necessary.

## SCA Awarded Fund for Wild Nature Grant to Support Aerial Monitoring of Caribou Winter Habitat Area

In late 2016 the SCA was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Fund for Wild Nature to support flight and related expenses to monitor the winter habitat injunction areas (areas closed to motorized traffic).

Winter was not cooperative weather-wise, but finally our photographer David Moskowitz was able to hitch a ride on the annual caribou census flight in mid-March.

To see some of his winter flight photos, be sure to attend Celebasin 2017 in August (see page 5).

## SCA Booth at Coolin Spring Festival

It's been a long winter, and we're looking forward to seeing many SCA members and hopefully meeting some new ones at our booth at the Coolin Spring Festival over Memorial Day weekend. We have been told to expect a spot near the Coolin Civic Center, so please come by and say hi – or connect with Cheryl in advance and help staff the booth.

We'll have a raffle drawing for a prize that all new members will be eligible for – thanks to a new sponsor, Mountain Gear of Spokane! Hope to see you there!

## Planning for the SCA 30th Anniversary Celebration Starts Soon! Want to Help?

In late 2017 or very early 2018, the SCA will celebrate its 30th Anniversary. The Board has voted to have a celebration of this wonderful milestone in 2018 and we are forming a subcommittee of members to help plan the event. Many hands make for light work – and by getting the ideas of many will we make this an event worthy of the occasion it marks.

If you can join this subcommittee, co-lead by Board Member Eleanor Hungate-Jones and member Mary Margaret Brajcich, please let us know ASAP! [sca@scawild.org](mailto:sca@scawild.org) or call the office 208-448-1110.

# Wildlife and Nature Photography: *August Clinics Offered in Selkirk Area*



**DAVID MOSKOWITZ**  
Photography and Wildlife Tracking

## Wildlife and Nature Photography

*August 11-12 2017. Priest River, Idaho*

**P**hotographically documenting the intimate lives of wild animals and striking moments in the natural world requires a blend of natural history knowledge, technical skill with your equipment, and an understanding of the artistic elements of lighting, composition, and visual flow. Most excellent wildlife photographs require careful planning and execution to produce.

In this field based class, explore how to create engaging photographs of wild animals and natural landscapes. Topics covered include:

- Methods for finding wildlife and how to set up for photographing them.
- Composing photographs to tell the story of an animal, its behavior, or its relationship to its environment.
- How to use natural light to create dramatic effect in your images.
- Research and planning for a wildlife photography trip.
- Exposure and camera settings to create engaging images.
- A basic introduction to development techniques and post-field work flow.

Participants must come with their own digital photography equipment including wide angle and telephoto lenses to practice with (or a camera which integrates both of these elements into the body of the camera). Cameras with manual control functions for setting exposure strongly recommended. For participants that want to get the most out of discussions around development and workflow, a laptop computer with the photo-management and editing software of your preference loaded on it is highly recommended for our evening session. Please contact David if you are considering purchasing equipment for the class to discuss what options might serve you best.

### Day 1:

- Equipment review, discussion of how to use and care for equipment in the field, Field etiquette and ethics.
- Practicing composing images.
- Working with exposure and depth of field.
- Observing and documenting wildlife behavior.
- Using evening light for wildlife and landscape photography.

### Evening:

- Review of images captured during the day.
- Discussion of image development.
- Prep for morning photography session.

### Day 2:

Early start to capture wildlife and morning light images  
Midday wrap up with Q and A and reviewing images from the morning.

Course fee is \$150 for SCA members, \$175 for non-members; limit of 15. A \$75 deposit is required to hold your spot through 7/1; remainder of fee due by 7/10. Contact the SCA office for enrollment (208.448.1110). Deposits are only refundable if we find an alternate should you cancel.

## Fundamentals of Wildlife Tracking

*August 13-14, 2017. Priest River and Priest Lake, Idaho*

**F**rom the tiniest shrews to bears and cougars, the signs of wild animals are around us year-round, waiting to be discovered by the observant outdoor adventurer. Humans' unique ability to find, interpret and follow the tracks and signs of wildlife is a skill that has been a fundamental part of our relationship with the natural world from the beginnings of our species. Tracking skills, found in the traditional ecological knowledge of many cultures around the world, continues to be a fundamental field skill in contemporary wildlife research and management, hunting, recreation and environmental education.

In this two day workshop, participants train in the fundamental field skills to reliably and consistently identify and interpret wildlife tracks and other signs. The class covers how to use wildlife tracking to explore the unique biology and ecological relationships of local wildlife species to each other and their environment. How to apply wildlife tracking to help directly observe wildlife is introduced.

### Learning Objectives

- Train participants in track identification and interpretation methods and practice these techniques in the field with local species and habitats.
- Practice using wildlife tracking to explore local wildlife biology and ecology.
- Introduction to using tracking methods to find and observe wildlife.

Course fee is \$225 for SCA Members, \$250 for non-members. Class will be limited to 9, must have your own transportation. A fee of \$100 deposit is due at the time of registration, remainder is due by 7/15. Due to the limited class size, early registration is strongly encouraged. Deposits are only refundable if we find an alternate should you cancel.

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*To register please contact the SCA Office, 208-448-1110.*



# SCA Welcomes Two New Part-Time Staff to Rebuild Geographical Information System (GIS)

Thanks to the generosity of the Ablesons and the new Charlotte Martin Foundation Grant, the SCA will begin to rebuild our GIS program in earnest this spring. Mr. Paul Sieracki and Ms. Tracey Morgan, both experienced GIS analysts, will begin the somewhat arduous process of reviewing our historical data, adding metadata to it (essentially documenting the origin, its date, any post processing notes, etc.) and preparing a data dictionary.

This will enable future staff and volunteers to know exactly what map layers are, their coverage areas, etc. and allow us to start submitting Freedom of Information Act requests to update layers that are now dated. Paul was an SCA employee years ago and Tracey worked as a consultant on our 2008/2009 Grizzly Bear Road Fragmentation Habitat analysis, so initially they will work predominantly with the historical files. Once those are cleaned up we'll be starting to compile the data necessary to being climate change and other predictive/post-harvest analysis. Welcome Paul and Tracey!

## SCA 2017 Membership Report

Fall 2016 *SightLines* 162  
March 28, 2017 184  
(+ 77 Renewals Pending)  
Goal for 2017 500 (aim high!)

## Thank You to these Fall/Winter SCA Volunteers

Since our last newsletter the SCA has been busy! A special shout out to these volunteers who have been

helping with various projects that are currently underway or events that will be happening during the summer of 2017:


- **Linda Check**; Amazing tasty treats for the Beardmore Holiday Open House
- **Bridget Gies**; Washington Timber Sale Review and Related Research, Spokane Brochure Placement Options, and 2017 Summer Lichen Collection Program Support
- **Tom Batey, J. Michael Short, and Sandra Mansfield**: Educational Placemat Project
- **Paul Sieracki**: GIS Analysis/Forest Advocacy Support
- **Tracey Morgan**: GIS Documentation Support
- **Dan Eskelson & Heather Ferrie**; Website Support
- **Dr. Robert & Georgene Bond**: Spring Bird Trip Leaders
- **Tim Gerlitz** of the North Idaho Mushroom Club: Fall Identification Trip Leadership

- **Bruce & Rosemary Yocum**: Your 2017 Celebasin Hosts!
- **The SCA Board of Directors**: Keeping up with my endless email queries, getting through the Employee Handbook, and other badgering!

Have you got a skill or passion you'd like to put to work for the SCA? Please email us at [SCA@SCAWILD.ORG](mailto:SCA@SCAWILD.ORG).

During the summer we can always use contributions of baked goods for our volunteers, help driving laboratory samples to Coeur d'Alene (timely delivery required!), and of course help on the boat on our two to four trips per month for water sampling on Priest Lake.

You don't need to be a scientist to contribute. We've got jobs for note-takers, brawny anchor pullers, meter readers, garbage collectors, lichen harvesters/sorters, etc. Check out our Calendar of Events (Ppage 20) for more ways to get involved in 2017.



### SCA 2017 Membership Form

Yes, I want to help preserve the Selkirks!

<b>Type:</b>	<b>Family</b> \$ \$	<b>Individual</b> \$ \$	
	<b>Additional Donation</b> \$	<b>Anonymous (Y/N)</b>	

<b>Name</b>			
<b>Primary Address</b>			
<b>City</b>		<b>State</b>	
<b>Zip</b>			

<b>Summer Address</b>			
<b>City</b>		<b>State</b>	
<b>Zip</b>			
<b>Email</b>			

*Email is for SCA use only we will not share or sell your email.*

<b>Phone</b>	<b>Cell</b>		
	<b>Home</b>		

<b>Credit Card Information</b>			
<b>Card #</b>			
<b>Expiration</b>		<b>CVC</b>	
<b>Signature</b>			

# SCA Calendar of Events: Spring-Summer 2017

If the current political climate has you feeling blue for any reason, experts say that the best way to counter that is to get involved in activities that support your values. We've put together a calendar of events for people of all ages this summer and hope to see each of our members participating! These activities are organized by theme below so we don't have to repeat information about what to bring, etc. All activities are free (except where noted), but a liability release is required.

## Arboreal Lichen Collection: Support Selkirk Mountain Caribou Recovery Maternal Pen Project

May 20; June 18 ~ Father's Day, so bring your dad!  
July 22; August 20. (Project days run from 9am – 3pm)

Please see article page 16-17 for more information on this important opportunity to help caribou recovery efforts underway by the International Working Group and the Kalispel Tribe. We'll post meet-up locations for each event on the SCA Facebook page and SCA website for those who want to collect as a group vs. independently over the course of the summer (there will be prizes!) or call the office the week before each event. You do not need to be agile or terribly mobile to help on group collection days. Older volunteers can bring chairs to sit in the parking lot and those of us who are still nimble can bring downed branches covered in lichens to you for separation from the sticks and sorting. Bring some gloves, a sack lunch, dress for the weather, and perhaps a basket and can for other foraging you may want to do – and help us meet our goal to collect 200 pounds of dried lichens this summer. You do not need to stay for the entire time period – but if you arrive after we've dispersed into the woods, please honk your horn so our volunteer coordinator Bridget Gies can get you helping efficiently.

## Celebasin 2017

August 12 (4pm – 7:30pm)

Join us for our annual meeting and gathering at the lovely Meadowbrook Farm in Squaw Valley. Farm tours, hiking near the Tower Fire area, live music by Dr. Scott. Guest speaker David Moskowitz shows his documentary on the Selkirk Mountain Caribou and talks about his work in the region. Bring a side dish to share, folding chairs, and any items you may want to contribute to our silent auction. See page 5 for a preliminary schedule of events.

## Fall Mushroom ID Clinic with the North Idaho Mushroom Club

September 30 (10am – 3pm... or longer for taste testing!)

Join us at the Granite-Reeder Sewer Building on Reeder Creek Road for a 1.5 hour instruction slide show/talk by the President of the North Idaho Mushroom Club, Tim Gerlitz, followed by a forage hike near the Beaver Creek Campground. This trip is limited to 45 participants and RSVP via Facebook (or calling the SCA office) no later than September 1st is required so we can prepare accordingly! Dress in layers, bring baskets or other containers for your personal collecting, and a sack lunch. If time allows and there is sufficient interest, we may regroup off Hagman Road to cook up and taste test some of our finds after the forage hike.

## Highway 57 Adopt a Highway Clean-Up

Spring: May 7, 10am Fall: October 1, 10am

Join SCA coordinator Rosemary Yocum as we clean our section of Highway 57 of litter each spring and fall. Meet at Milepost 16.5 (SCA Signpost). Gloves recommended. Snacks and beverages will follow and perhaps a prize for the strangest item found in 2017?

## Hughes Meadow Restoration Project

August/September

Volunteers Needed! See pages 4 and 5 for more information.

## Idaho Gives Day! (See article, page 1)

May 4th; 12:01AM to 11:59 PM

Visit our page and encourage your friends to contribute to the SCA on Idaho Gives Day. All funds raised in 2017 from this campaign will be dedicated to Priest Lake Water Quality Monitoring Programs – Help us meet our goal! Challenge your friends and lake neighbors to meet or beat your donation.

## Priest Lake Water Sampling: South and North

Priest Lake South

(Sites South of the Narrows)

May 14, 15, or 16

June 11, 12, or 13

July 9, 10, or 11

August 7, 8, or 9

Sept. 10, 11, or 12

Priest Lake North

(Sites North of the Narrows)

May 21, 22, or 23

June 19, 20, or 21

July 16, 17 or 18

August 21, 22, or 23

Sept. 17, 18, or 19

For each trip (2-3 monthly) we'll need at least two volunteers in addition to our pontoon boat captain and staff person. Volunteers must be able to take notes, help with the anchor/docking, or participate in the sampling process after training. The boat departs from Granite Creek Marina on the west side of the lake, but can pick up volunteers at Kalispell or Cavanaugh for South Lake trips or the Lion Head Campground for North Lake trips. All trips are weather dependent and take place around a 3-day window (S-M-T or M-T-W). We stop 1-2 times at local campgrounds for bathroom breaks but participants must be able to walk short distances to these facilities. Dress in layers, bring a sack lunch, sunglasses, sunscreen, and anything else you need to be comfortable. We can also always use drivers to take the water samples to the lab in CDA the next morning after collection. Please email sca@scawild.org at least 3 days in advance of each trip window to participate, or simply add your name to the list we use to call from when we're running short of help if you are flexible about your participation dates.

## Up With the Birds!

June 4 (8am – 10:30am)

Join longtime SCA members Dr. Robert and Georgene Bond and local birding experts on a bird identification walk near Coolin. Dress for the weather. Bring binoculars and a bird book if you have them, the Bonds will provide a spotting scope. Meet in front of Coolin Post Office

## Wildlife Photography & Tracking Clinics with David Moskowitz

Wildlife and Nature Photography Clinic – August 11-12

Priest River (Limit 15)

Fundamentals of Wildlife Tracking Course – August 13-14

Priest River and Priest Lake (Limit 9)

If you have been following our Facebook posts you've seen some of David's amazing photography. How does he get these kinds of shots? Clearly, with a lot of skill, hard work, and no doubt sometimes some luck - and he's coming to our area to give two clinics which will help get you on your way. Long term SCA member and professional photographer J. Michael Short will also participate, to ensure everyone gets plenty of expert advice on how to get the most out of their cameras, lenses, etc. Fee-based with discounts to 2017 SCA members. See Photography Clinics article page 17 for more information.